

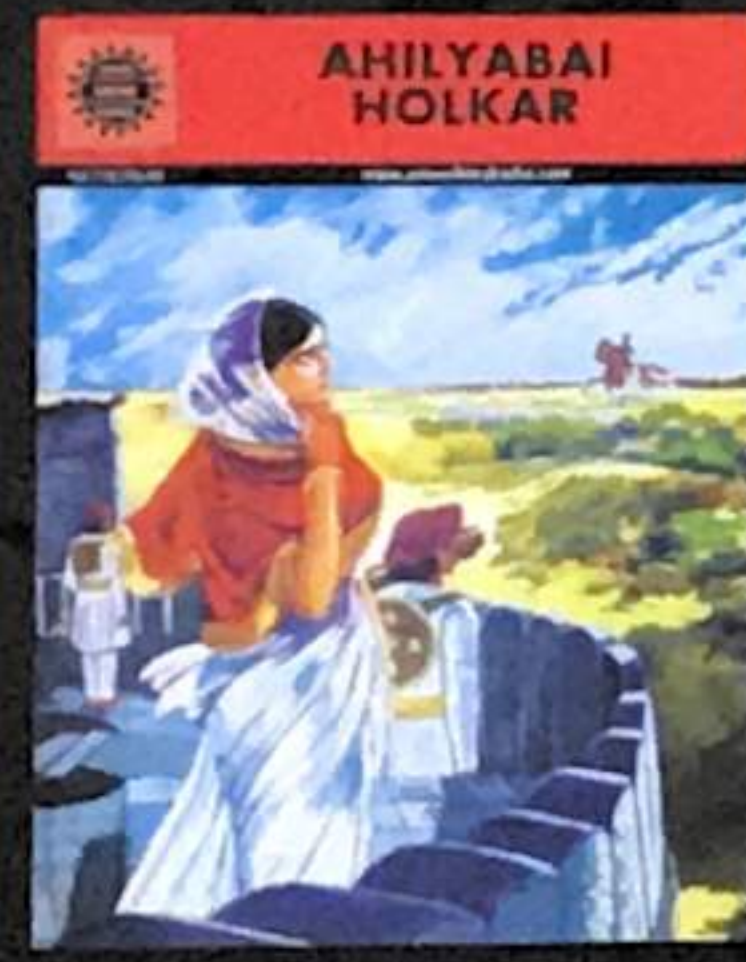
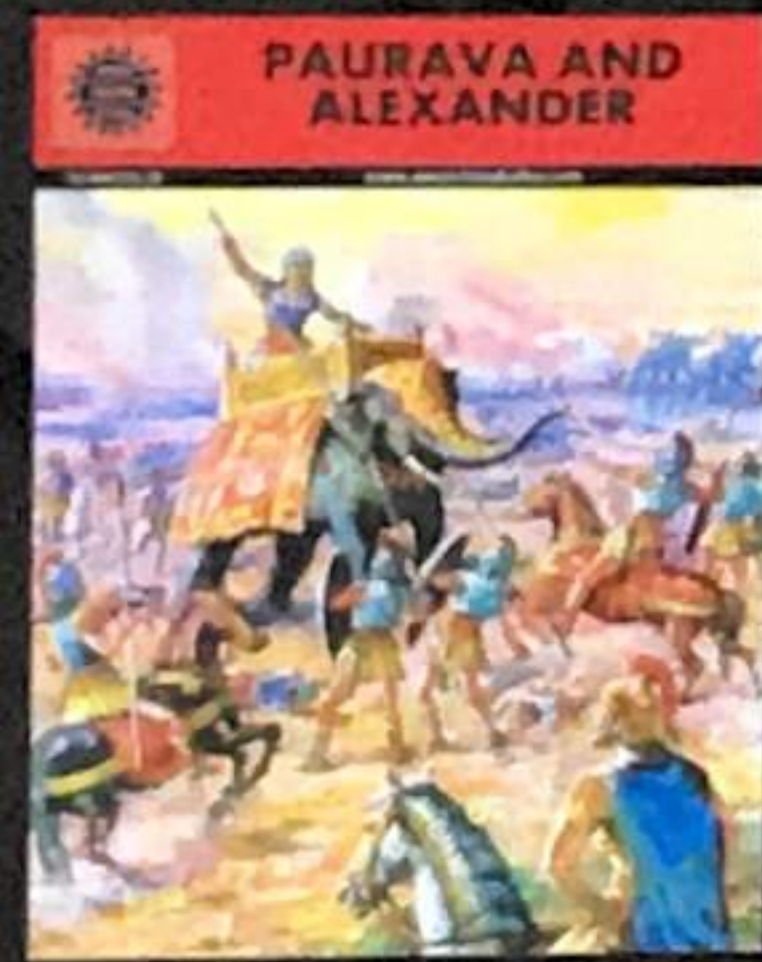
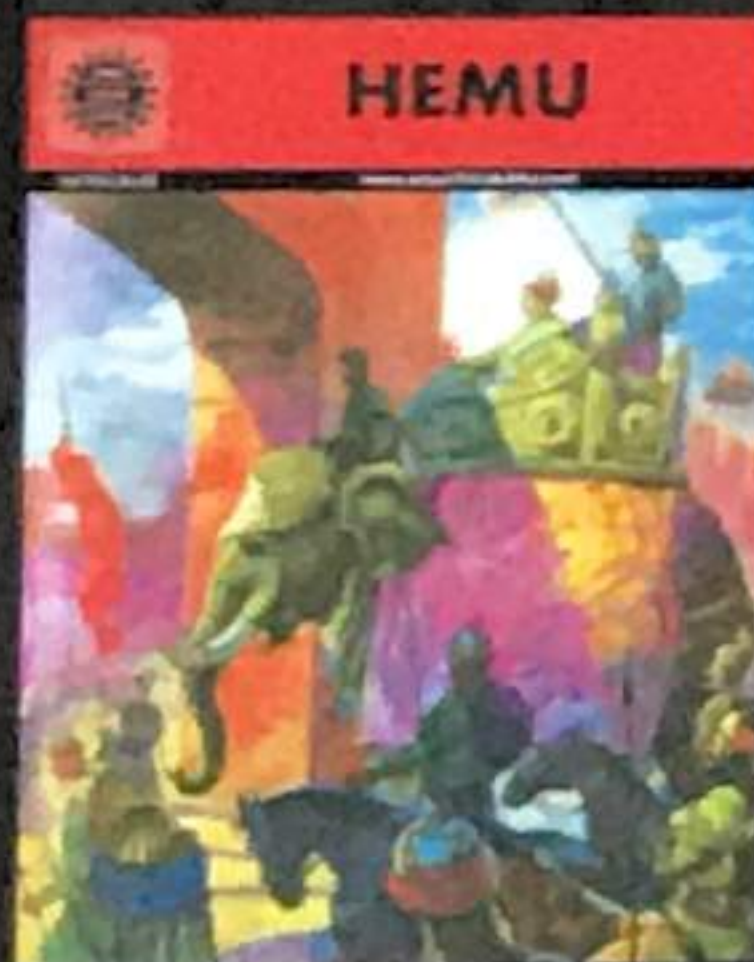
KOCHUNNI

Kochunni ran away from home, to avoid living with his thieving parents. But wherever he went, people insisted on treating the little boy as a thief himself.

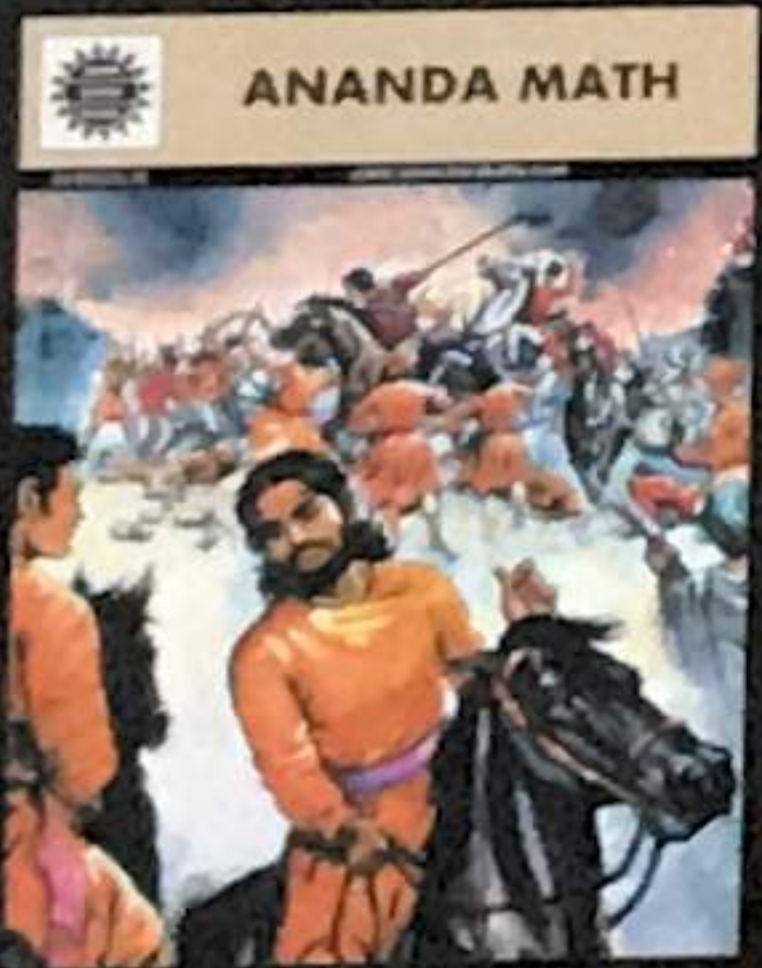
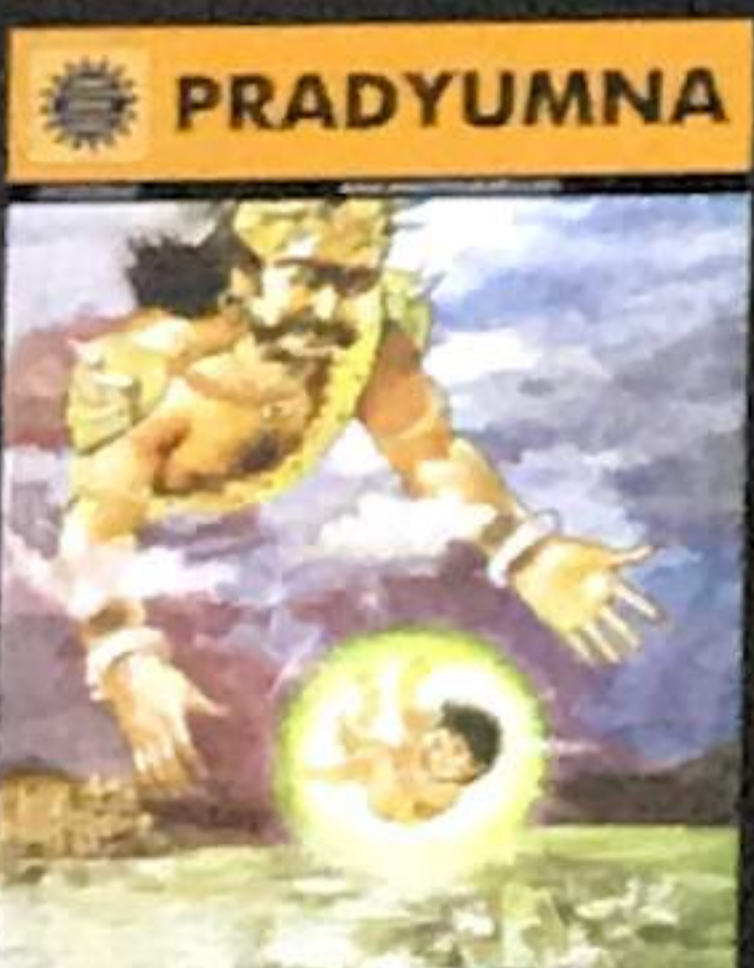
Kochunni grew up determined to make his mark on the world and to fight injustice and prejudice. He became a highwayman, a daring Robin Hood-like figure who robbed the rich and gave the poor. He liked to target the most arrogant and cruel landlords and teach them a lesson. With his martial skills and his daring, Kochunni managed to outwit everyone.

Kochunni's sense of mischief makes him the subject of many folk tales in Kerala.

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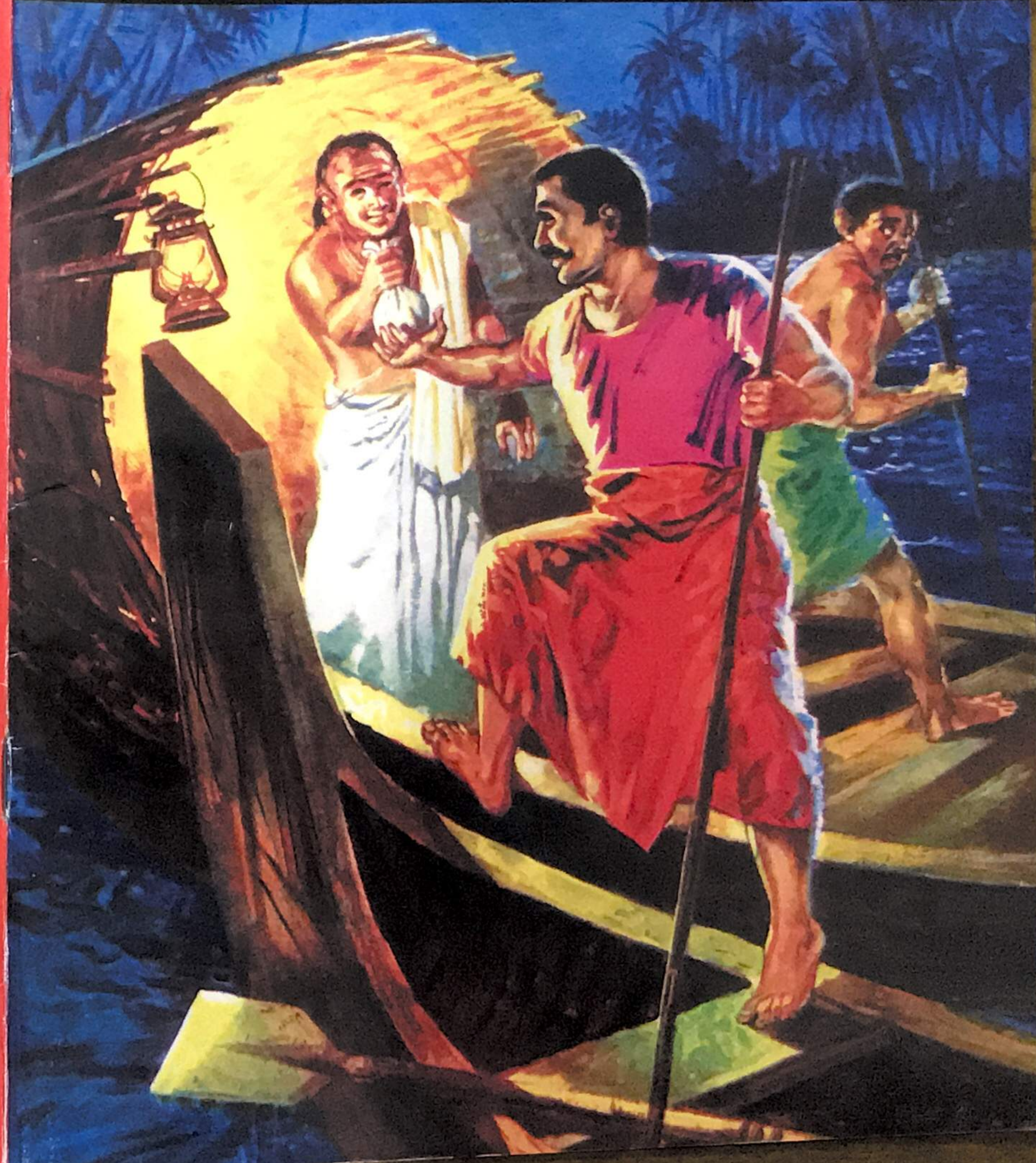
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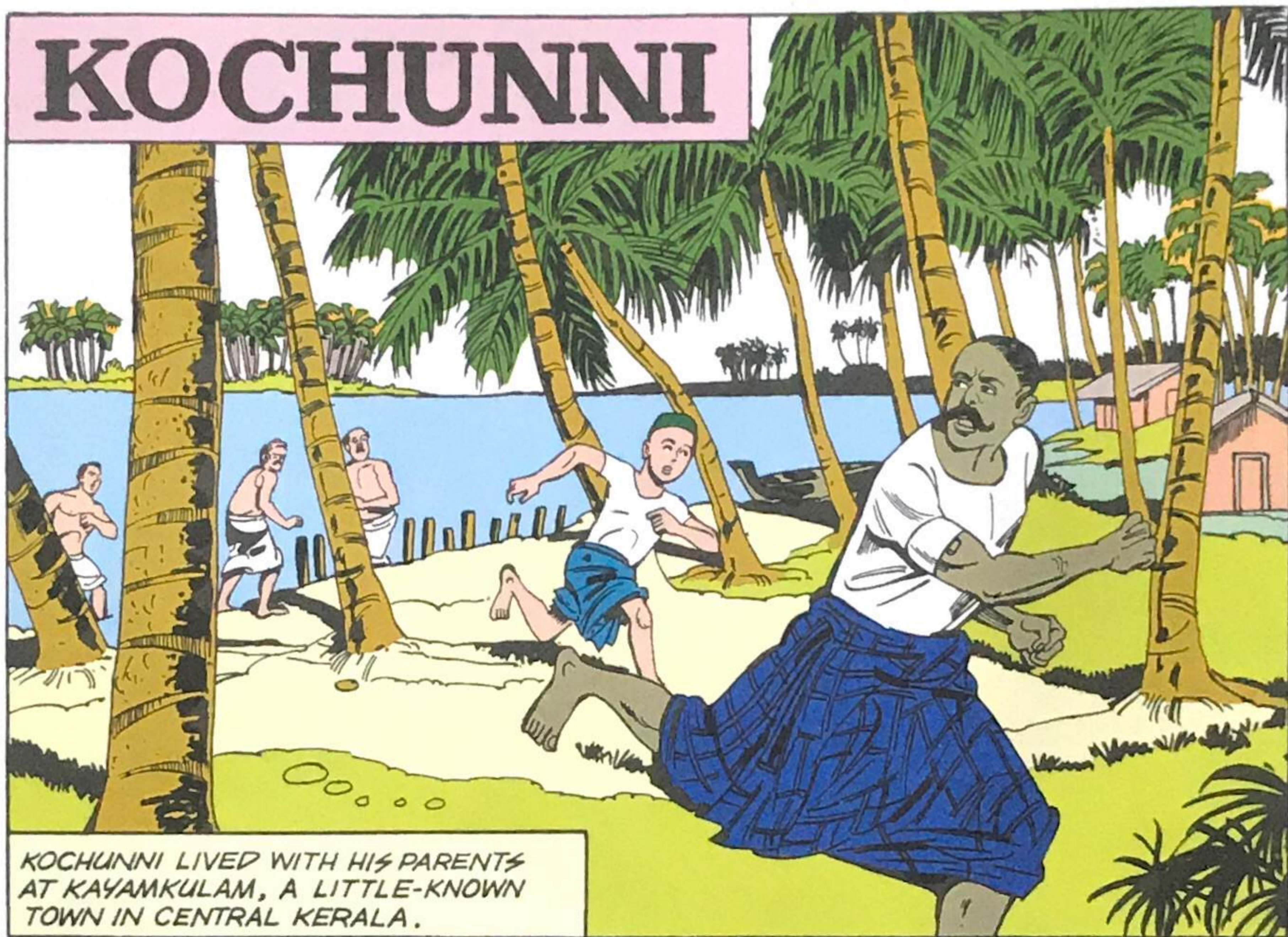


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"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

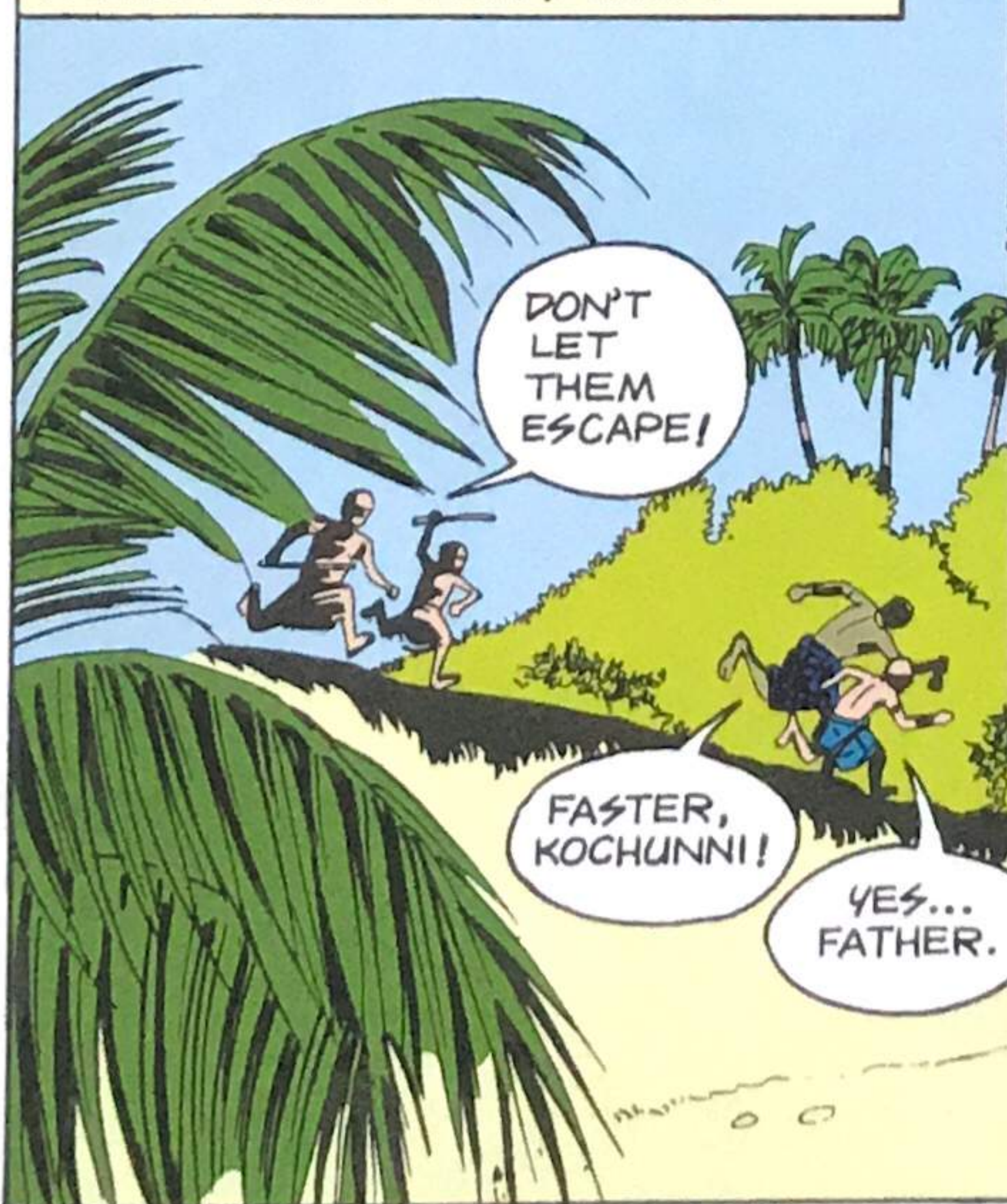
- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

KOCHUNNI



KOCHUNNI LIVED WITH HIS PARENTS AT KAYAMKULAM, A LITTLE-KNOWN TOWN IN CENTRAL KERALA.

KOCHUNNI'S PARENTS WERE POOR. HIS FATHER WAS A PETTY THIEF.



DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!

FASTER, KOCHUNNI!

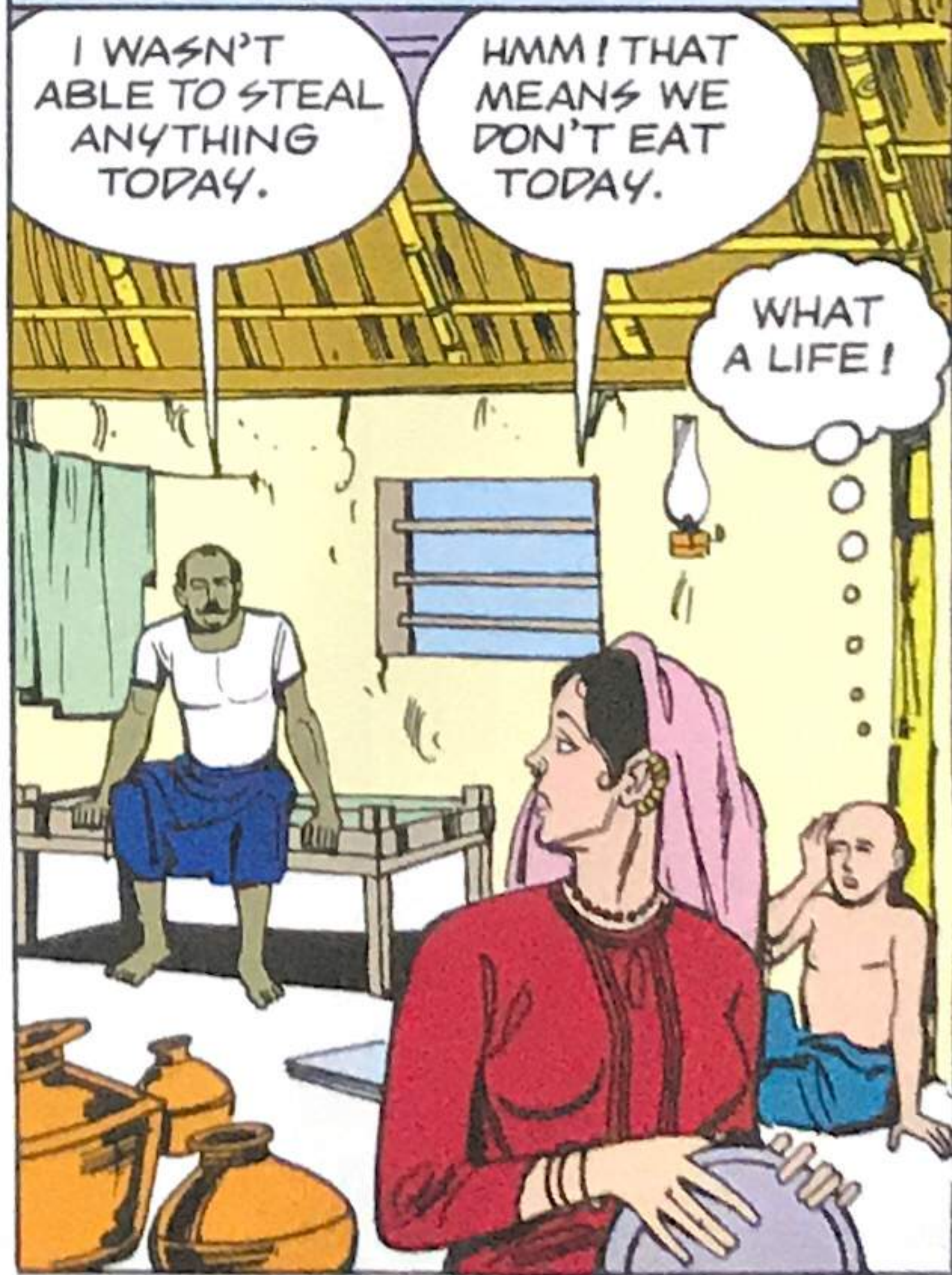
YES... FATHER.

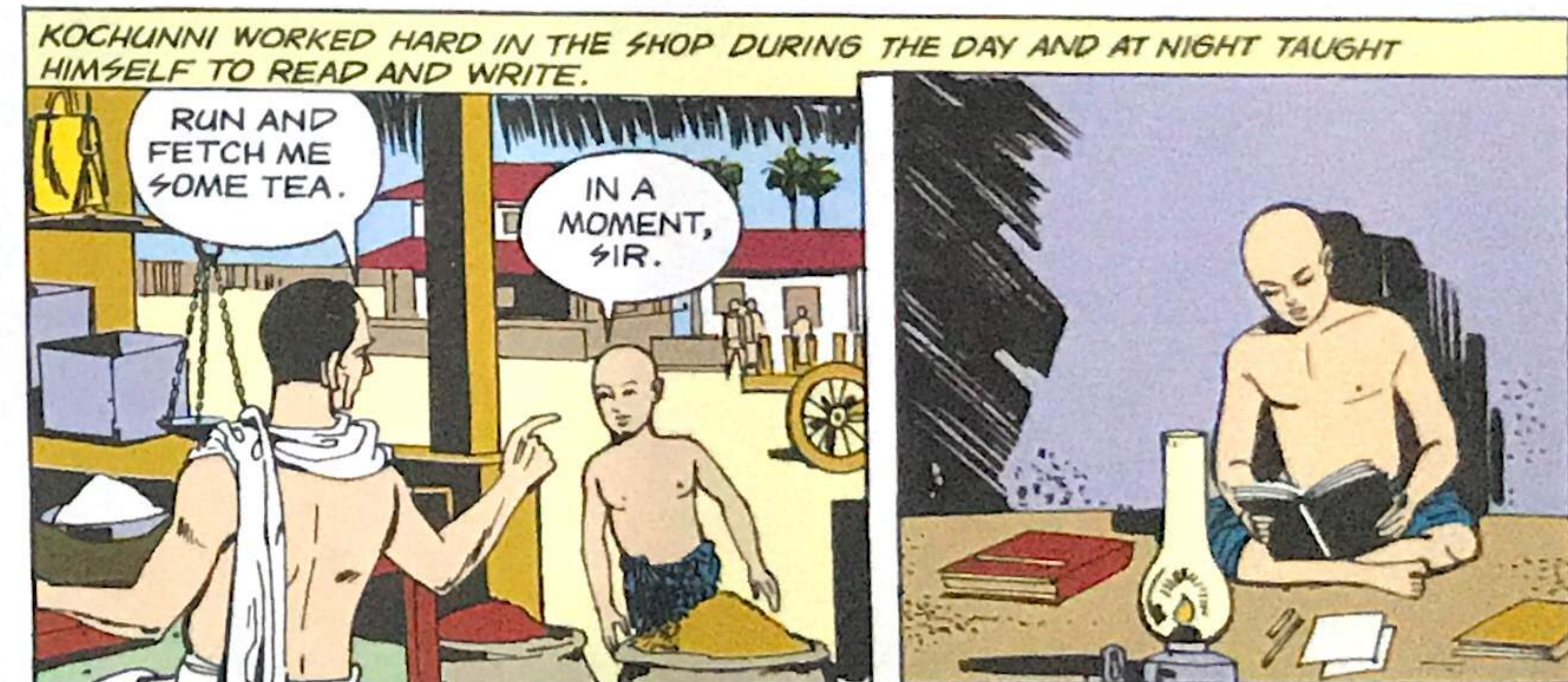
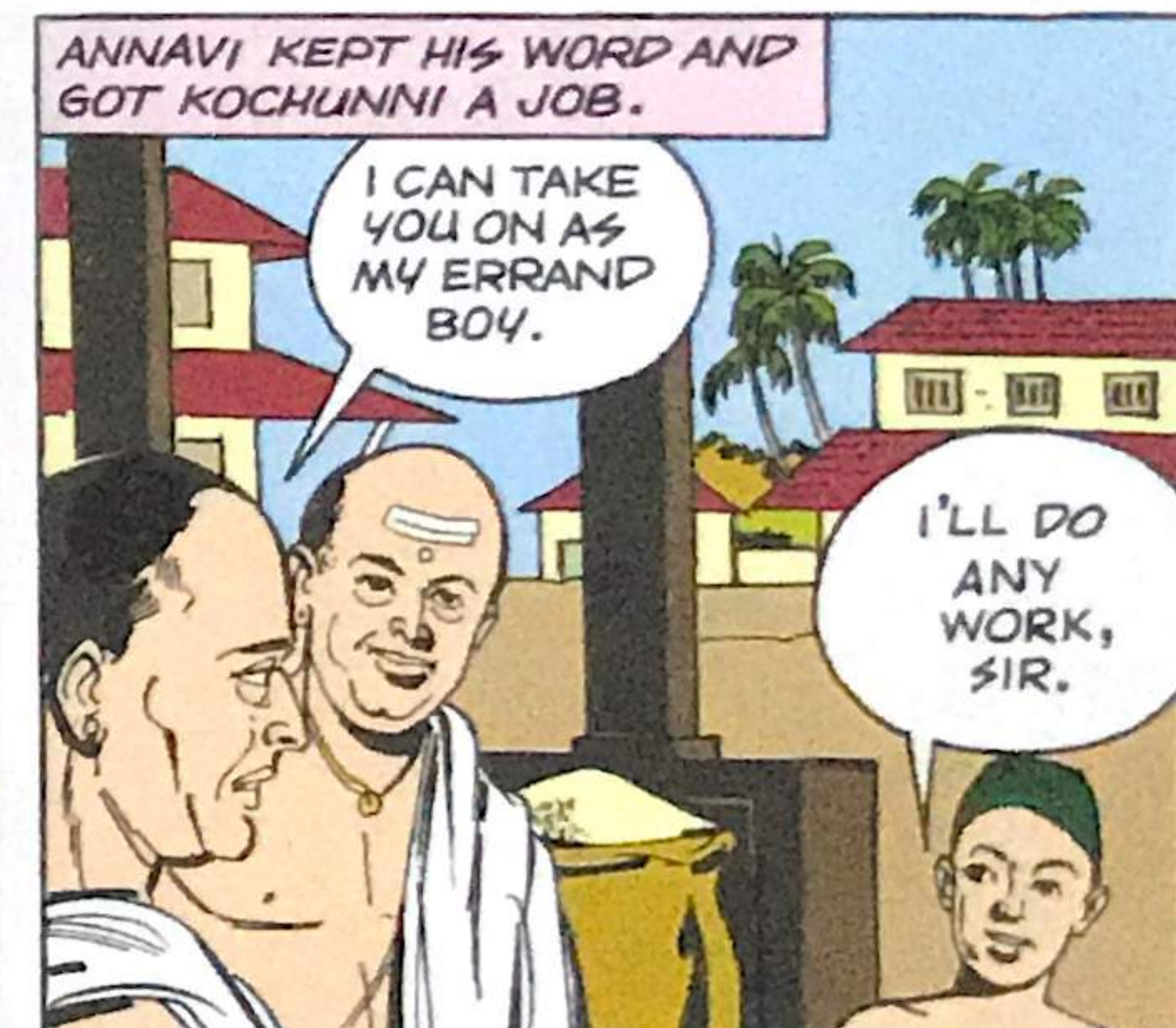
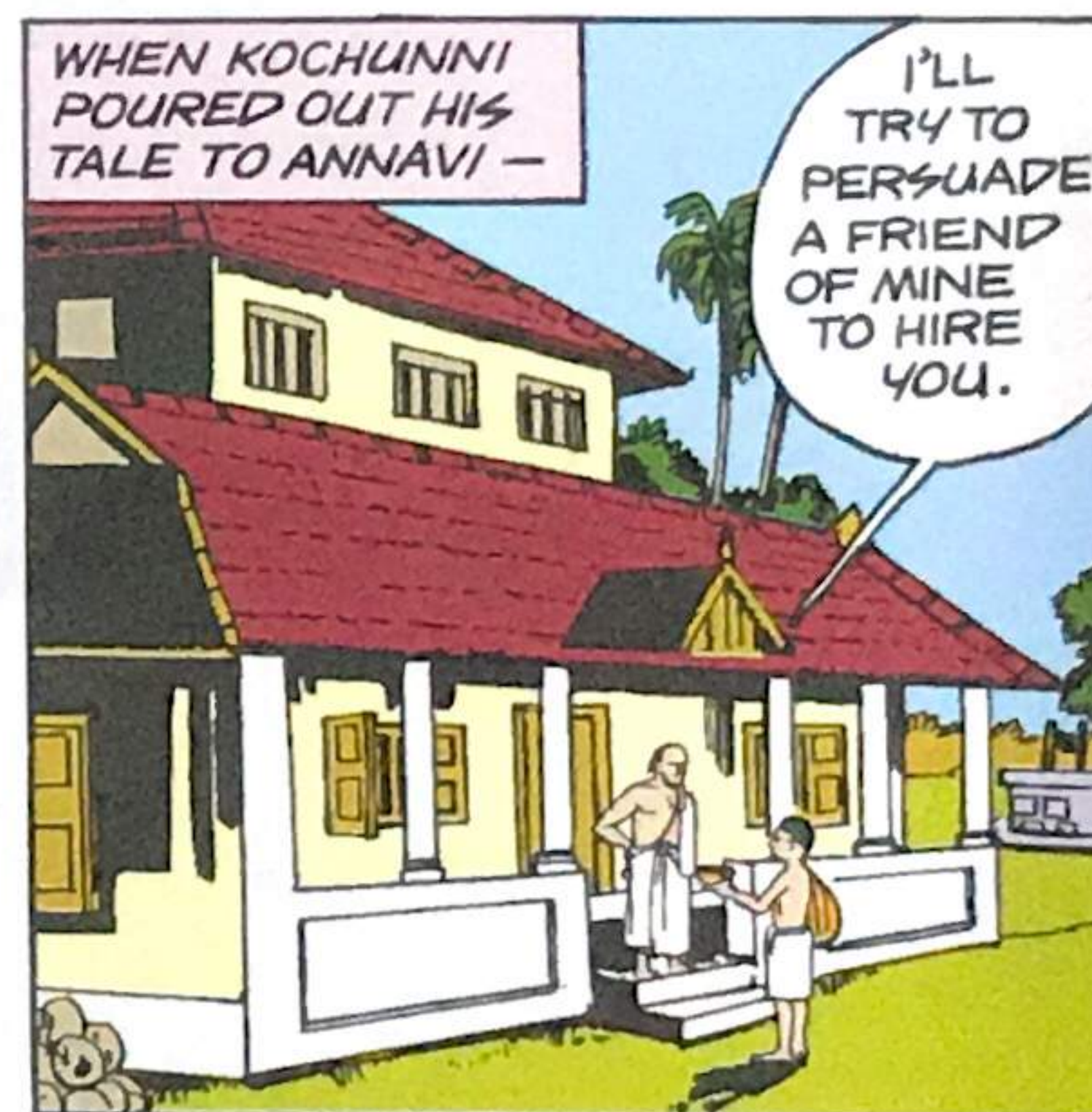
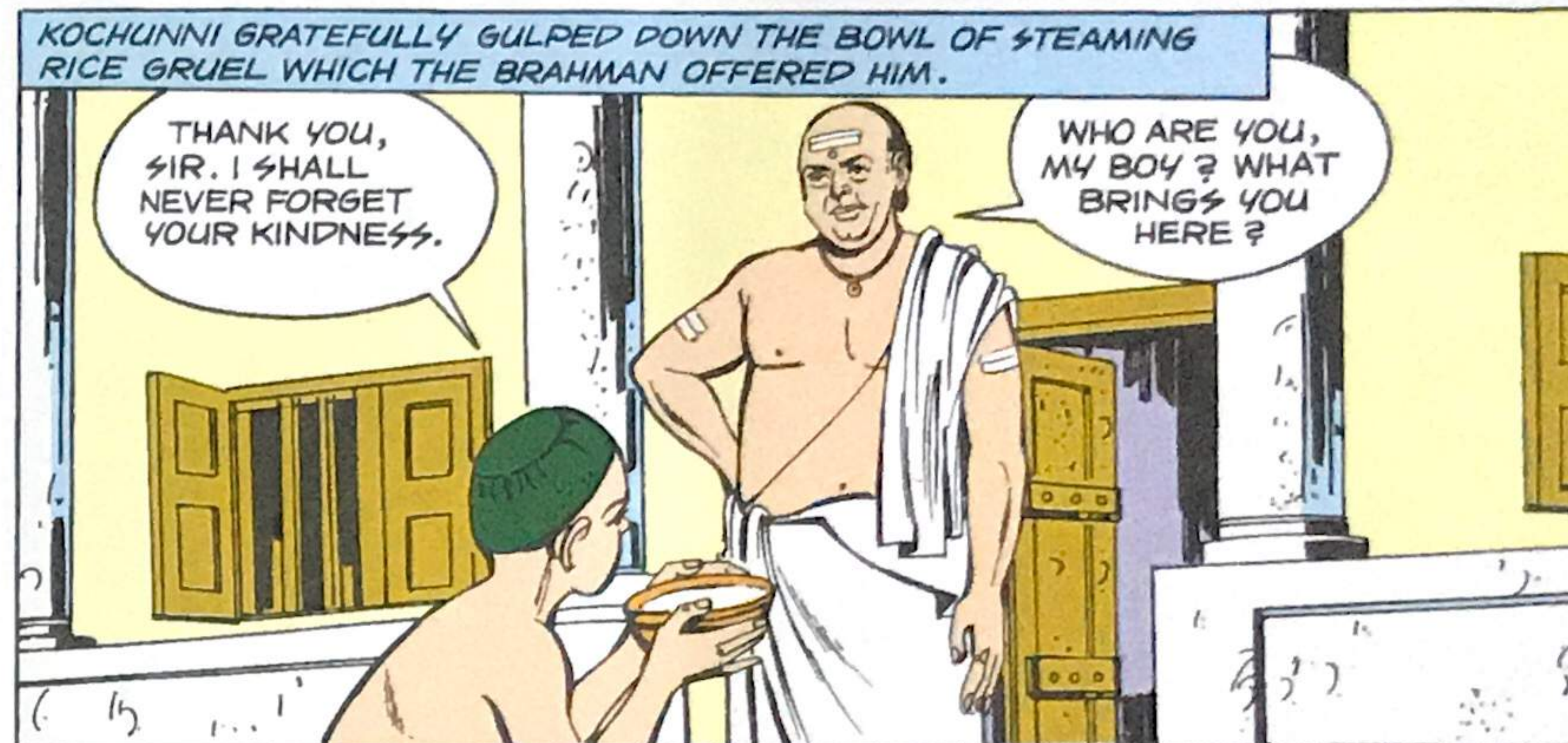
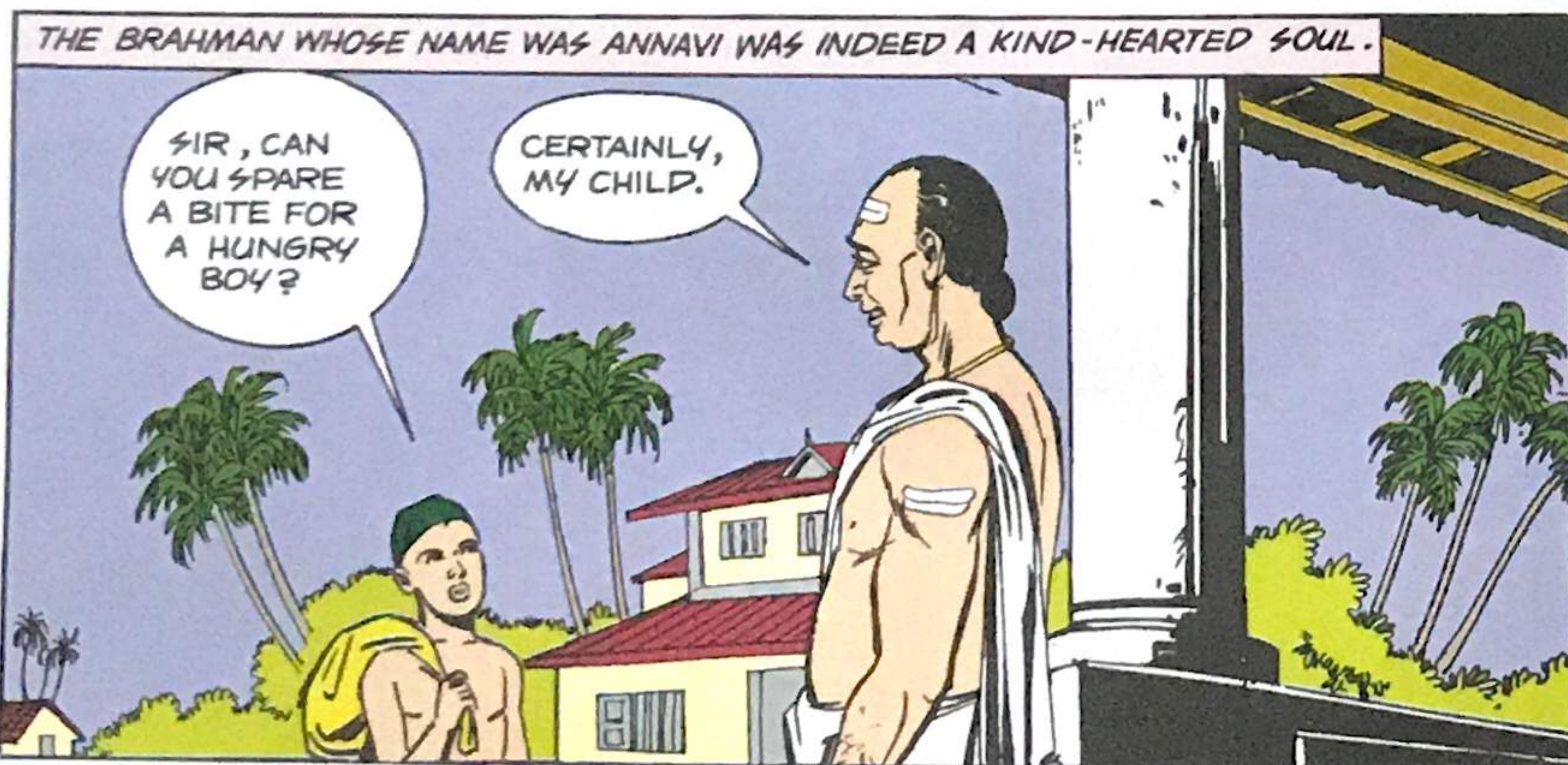
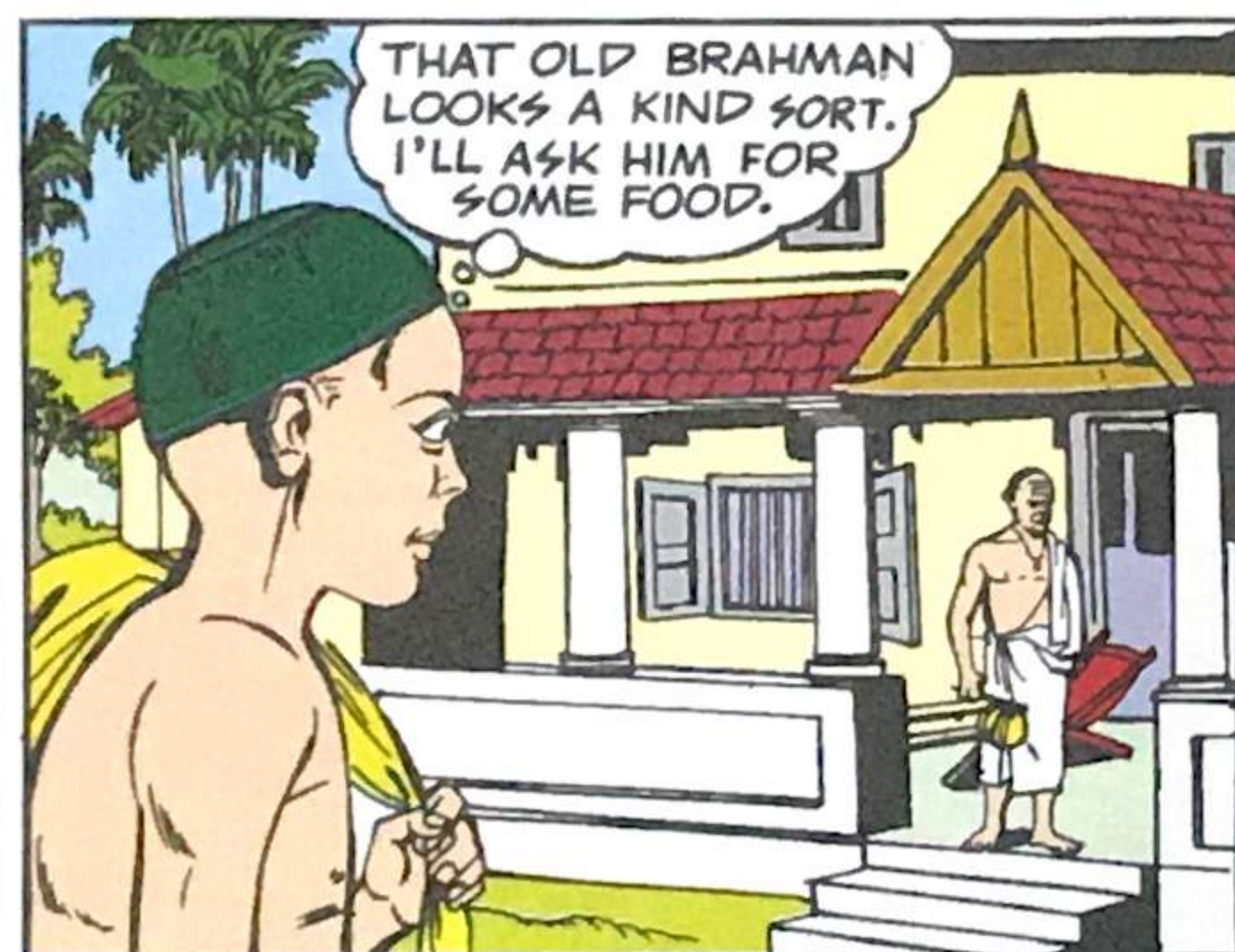
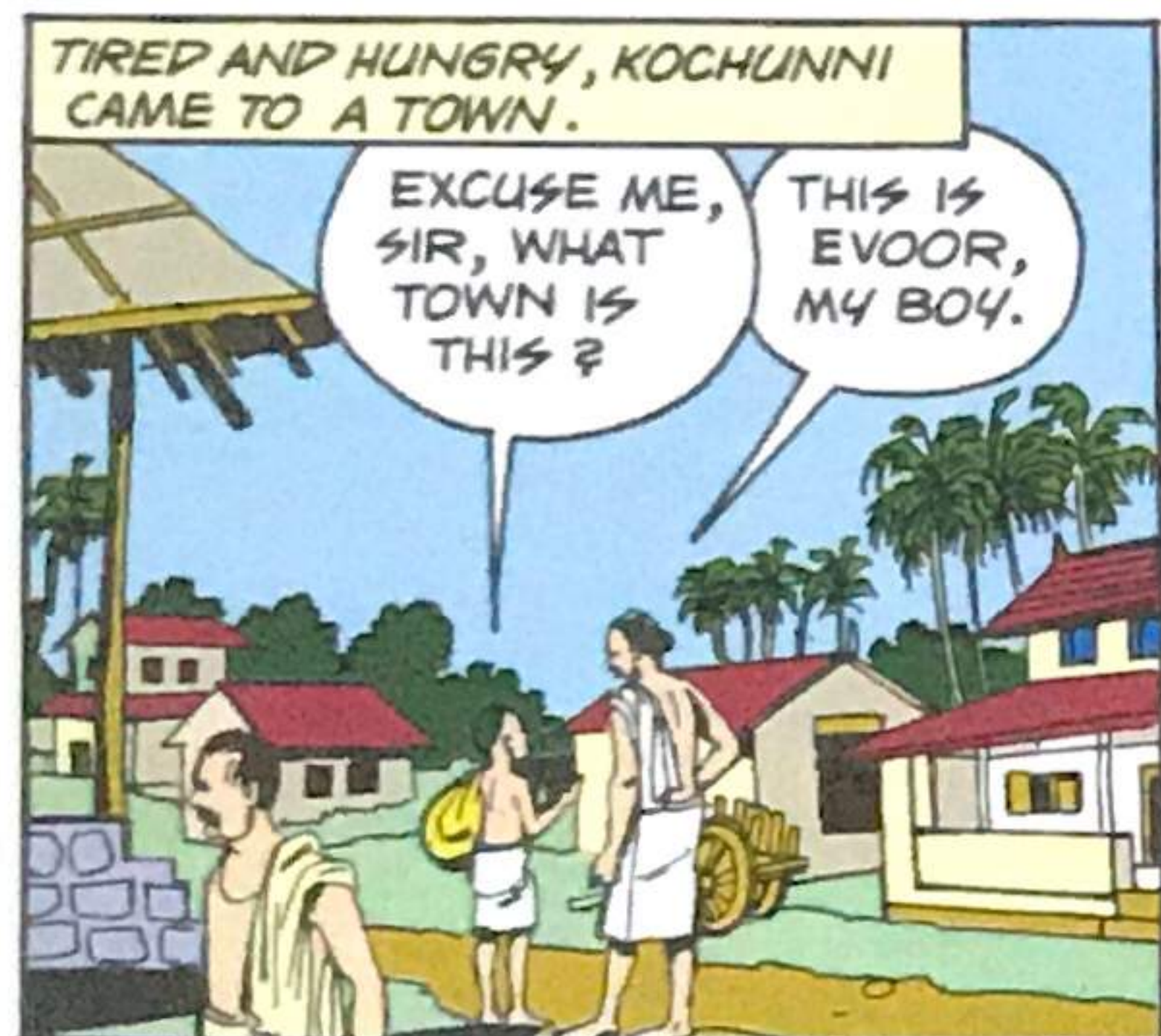
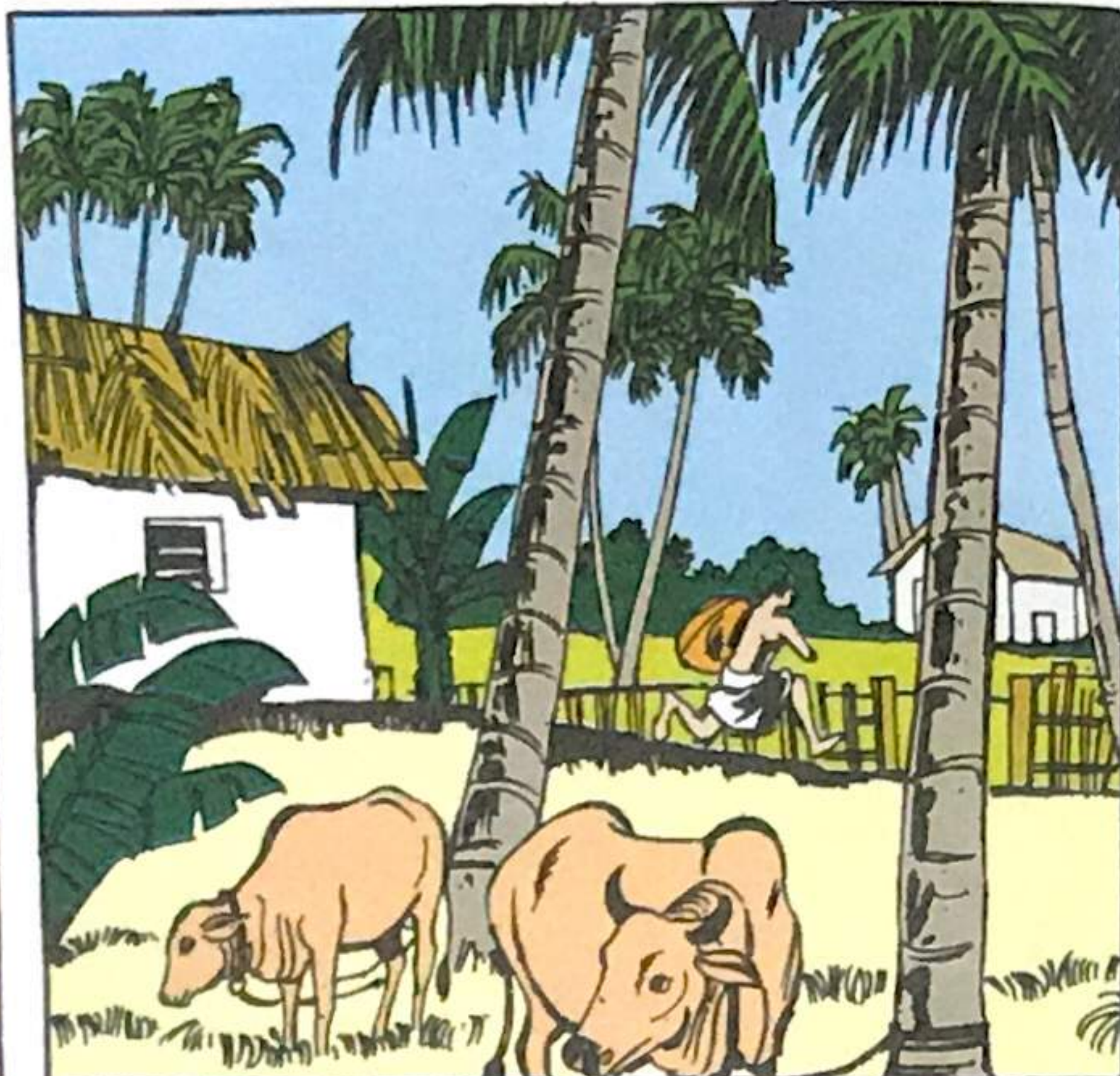
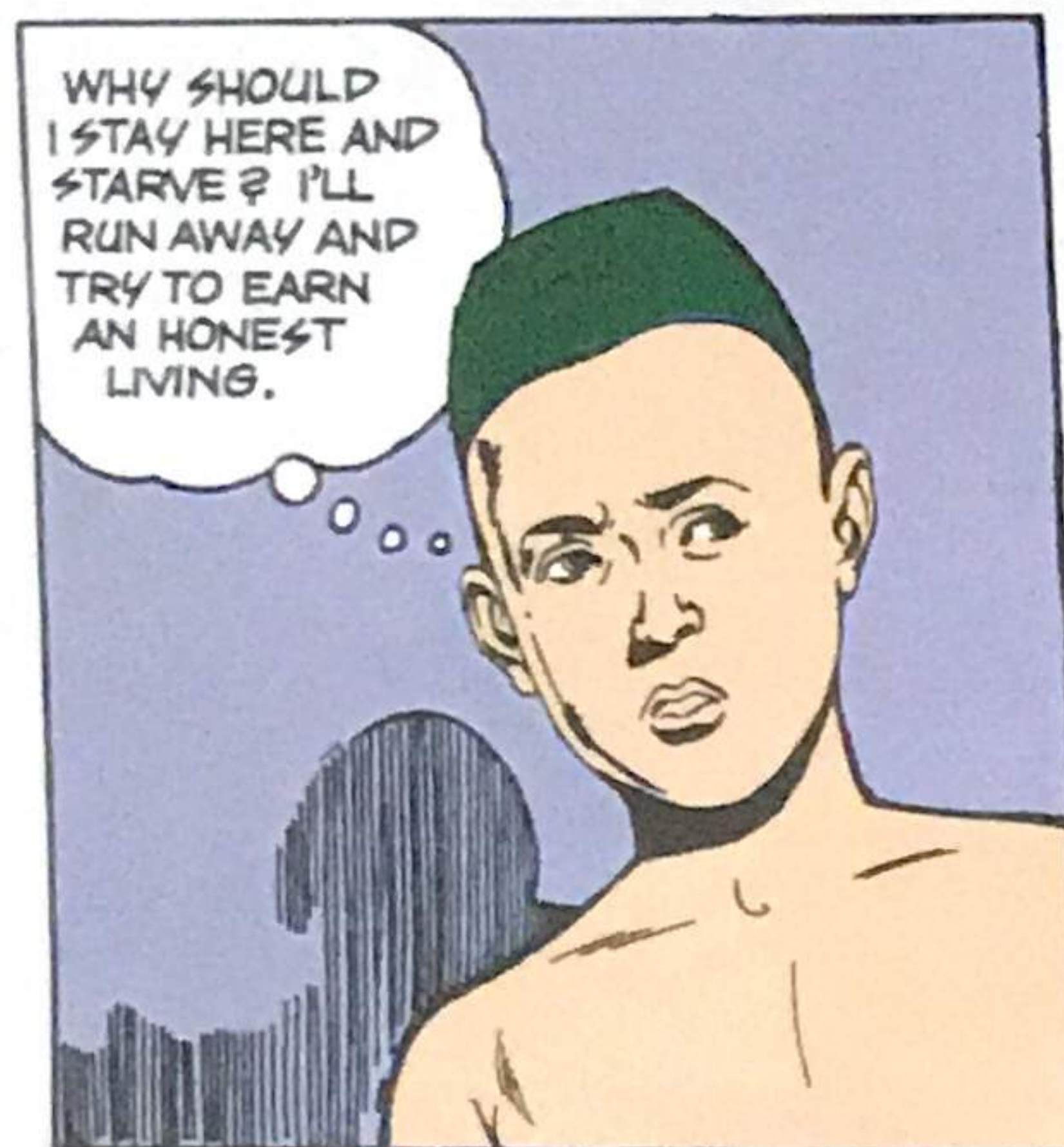
YOUNG KOCHUNNI WENT HUNGRY MOST OF THE TIME.

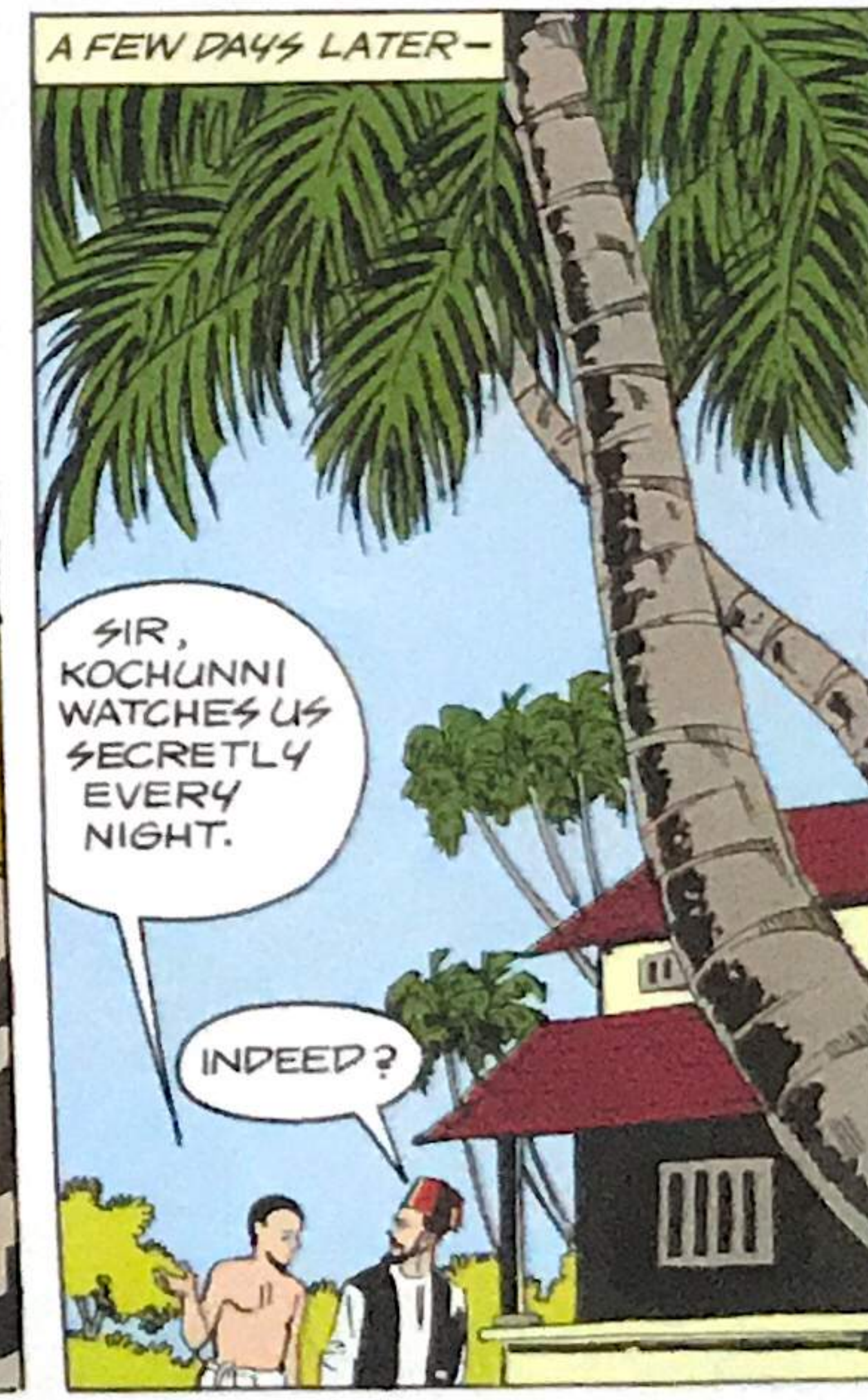
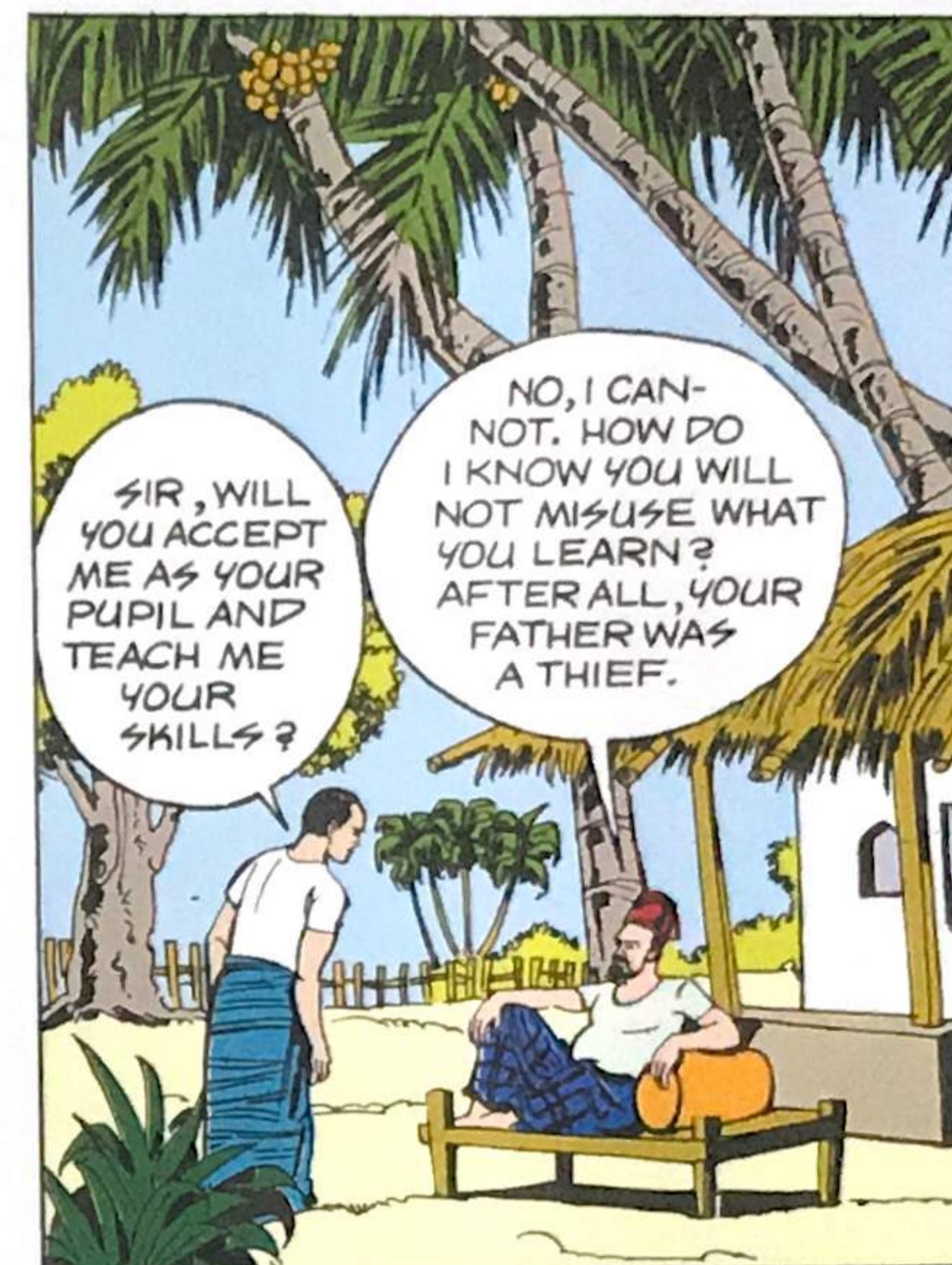
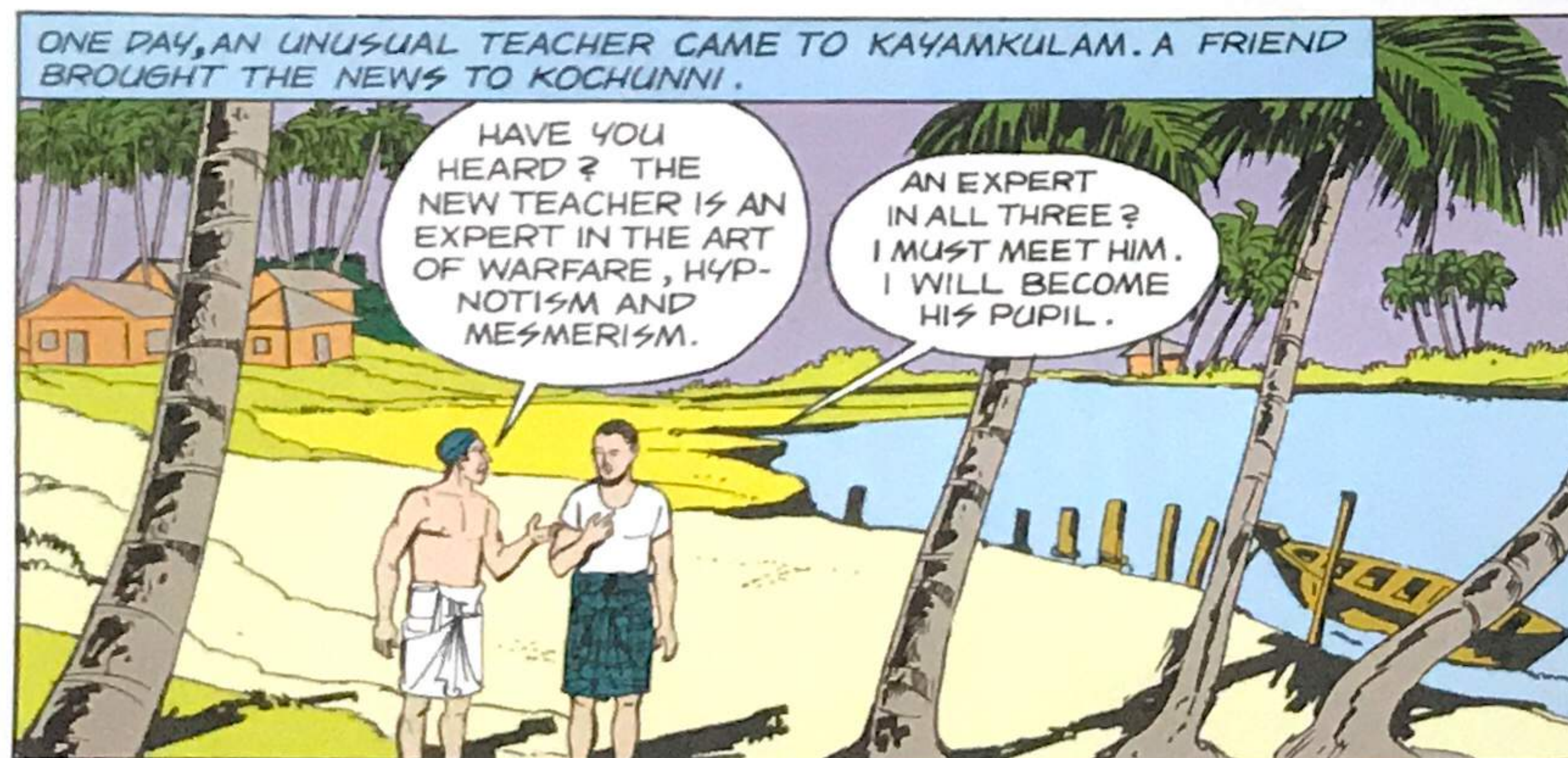
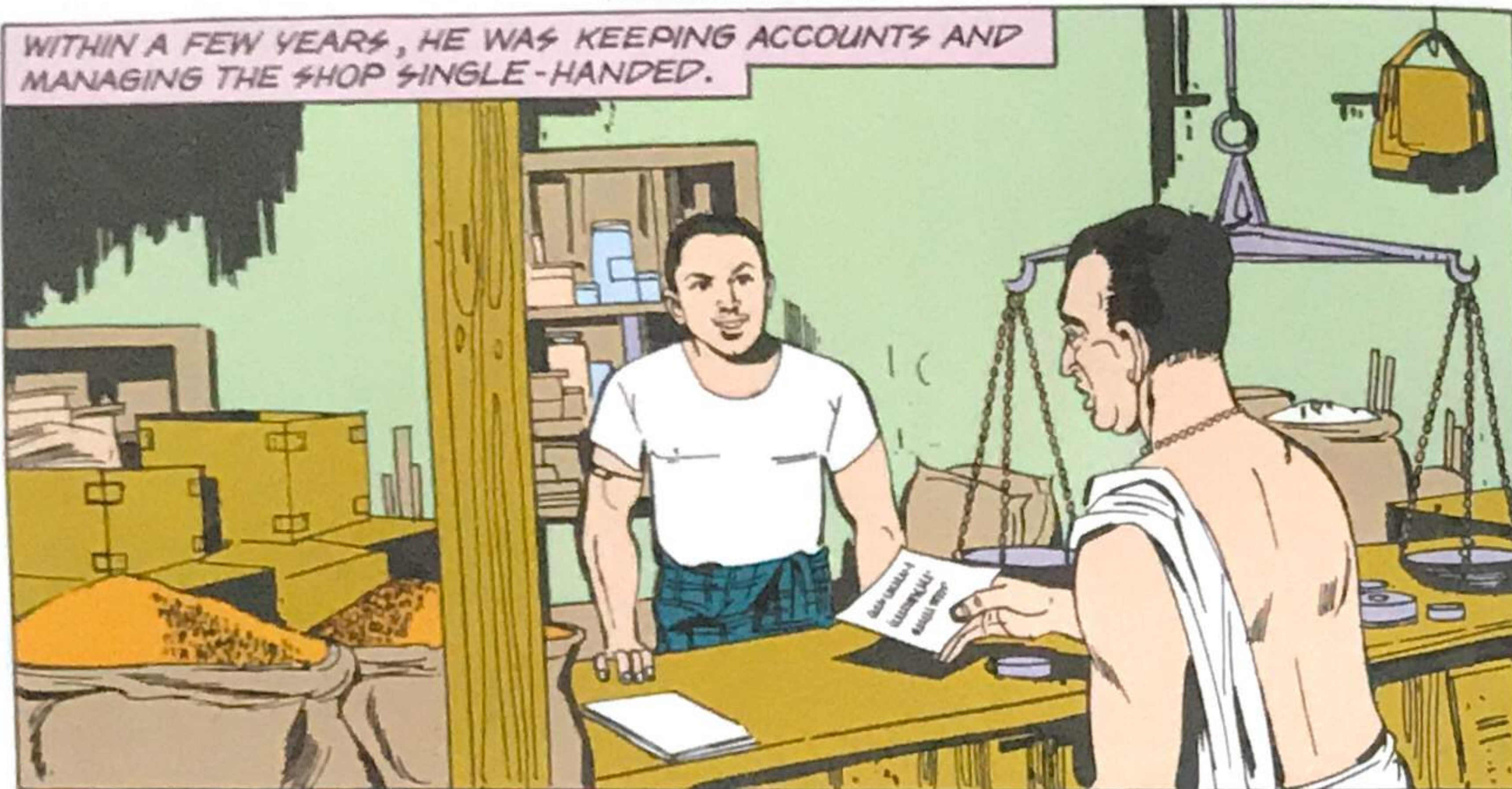
I WASN'T ABLE TO STEAL ANYTHING TODAY.

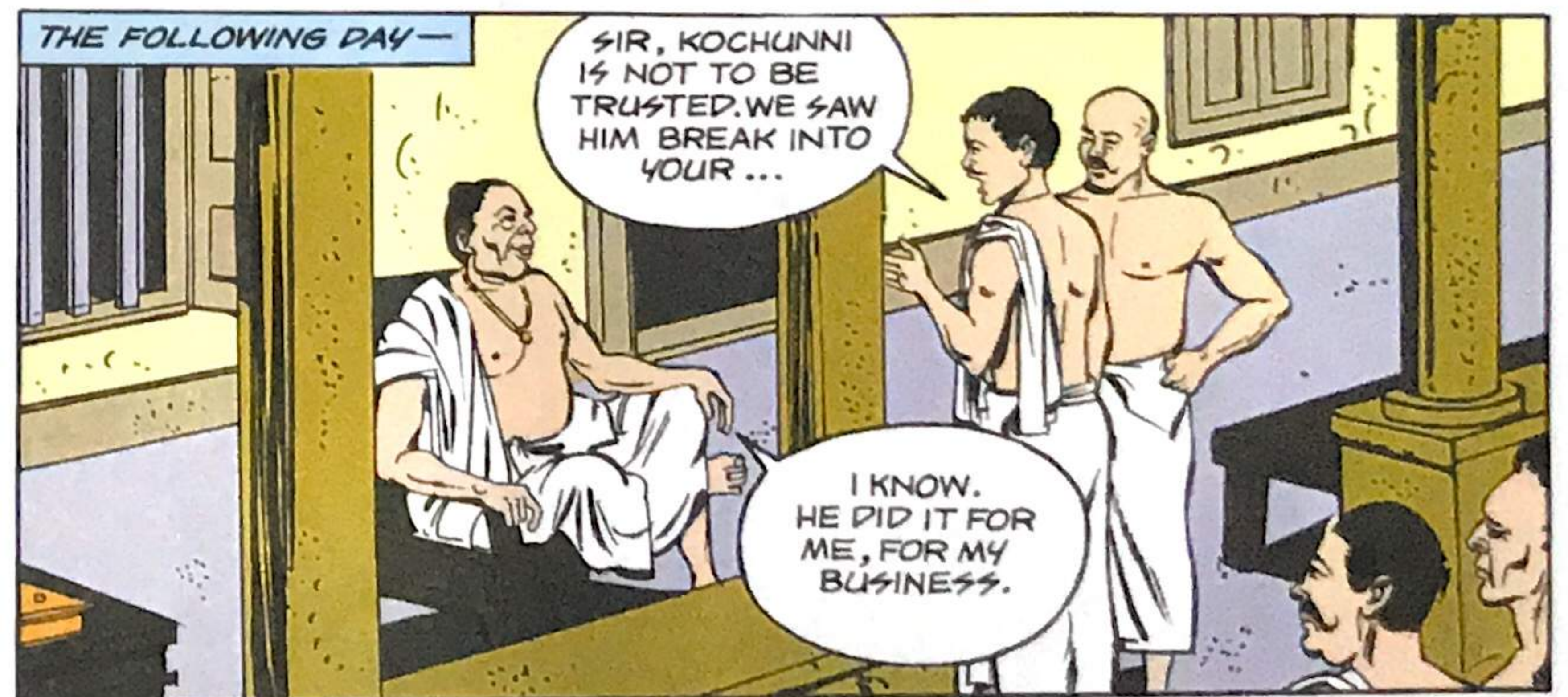
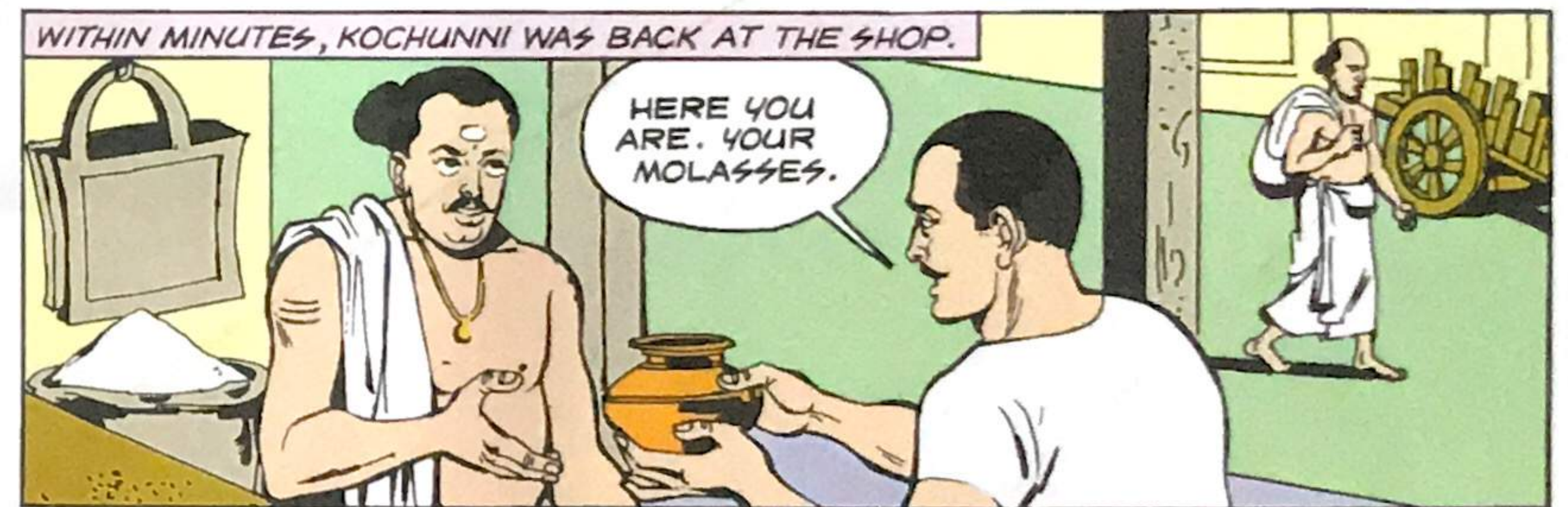
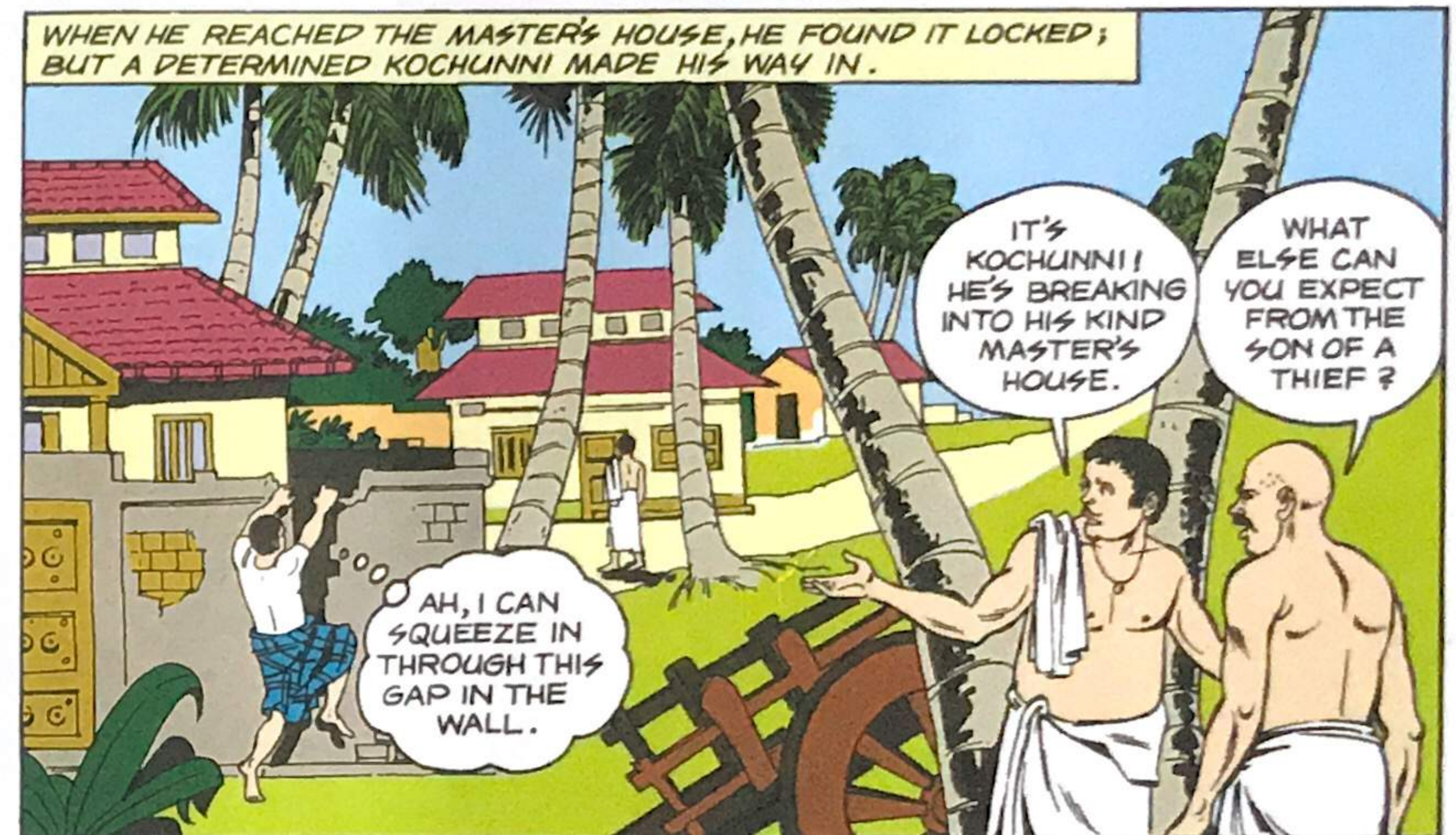
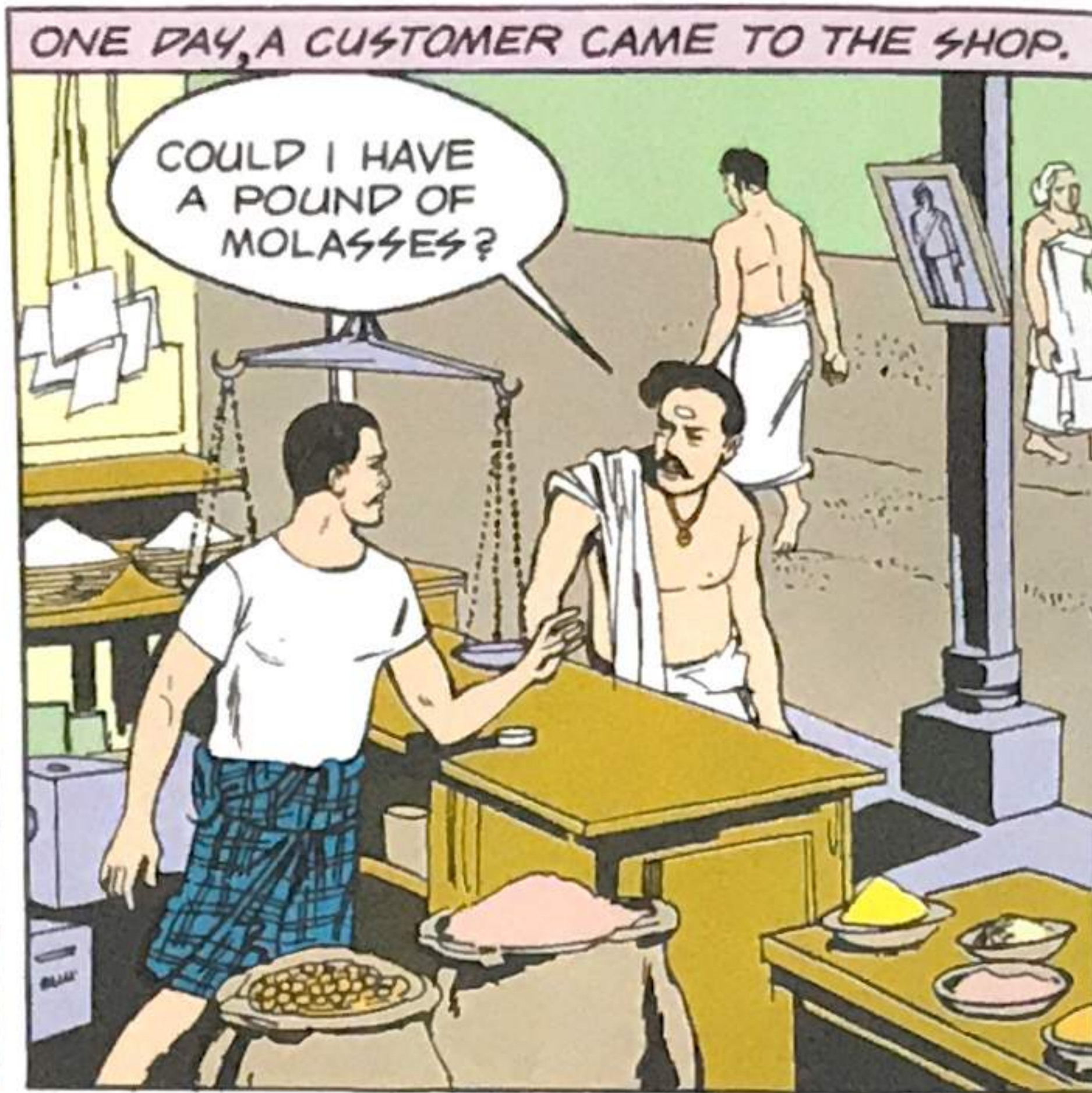
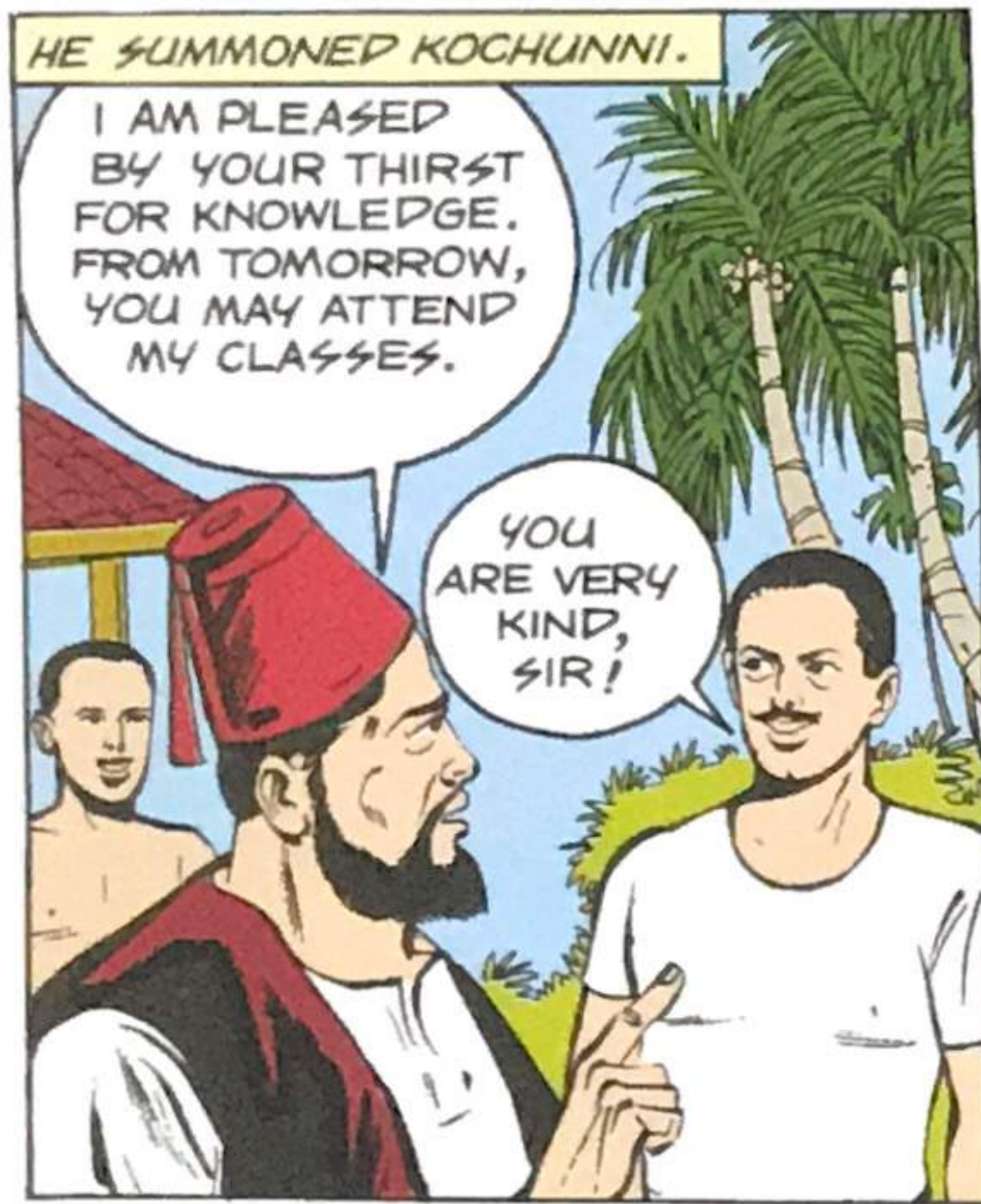
HMM! THAT MEANS WE DON'T EAT TODAY.

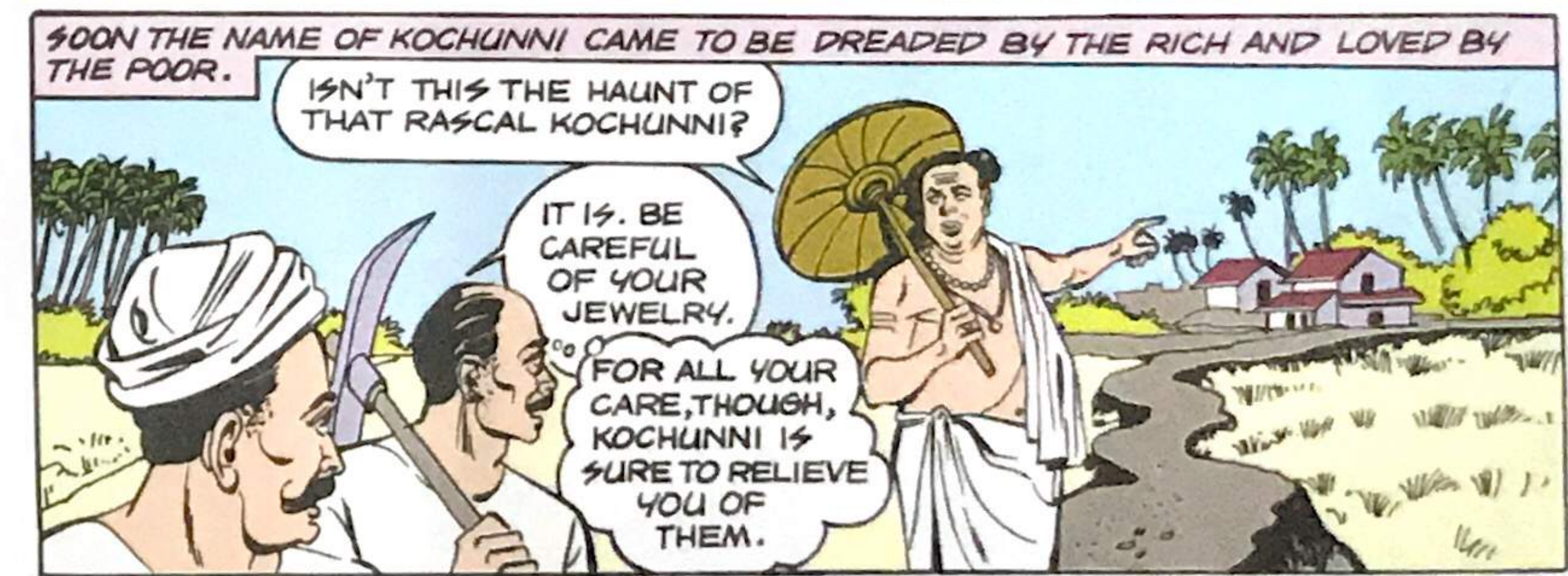
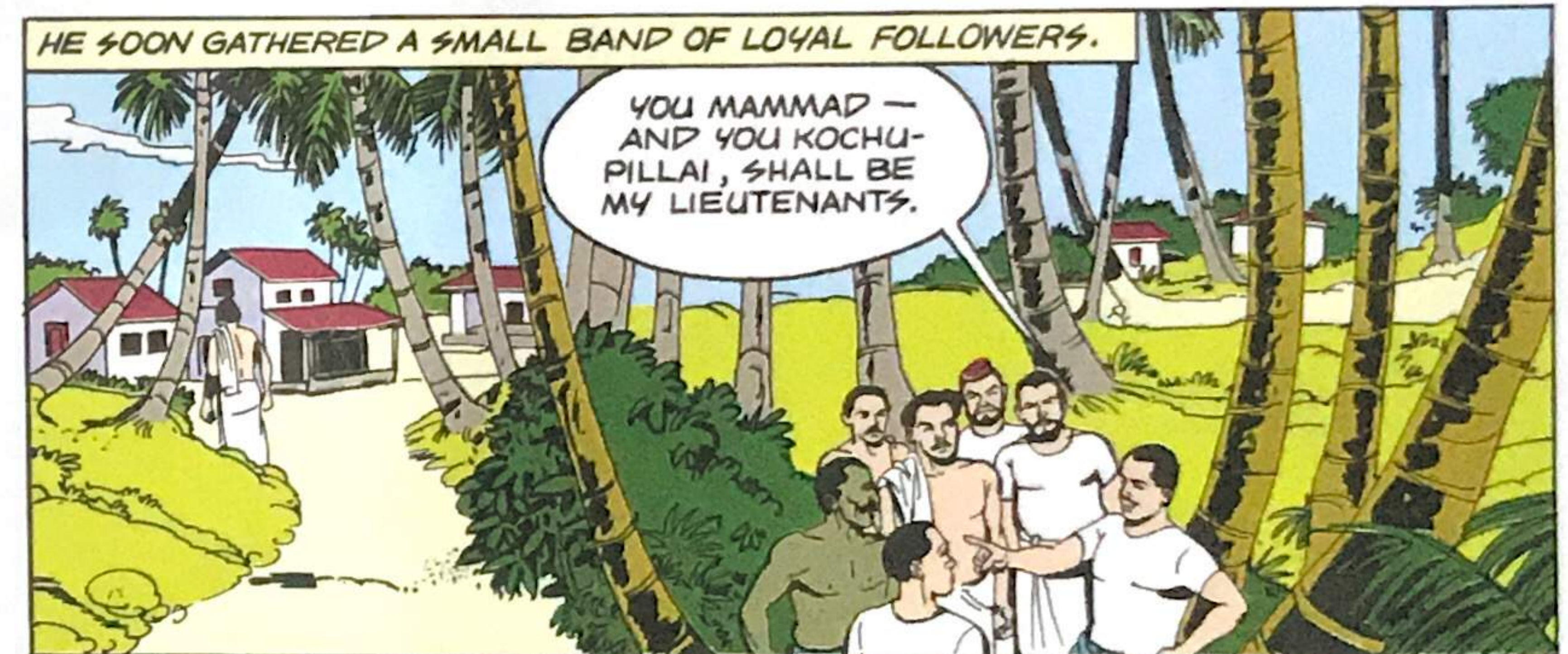
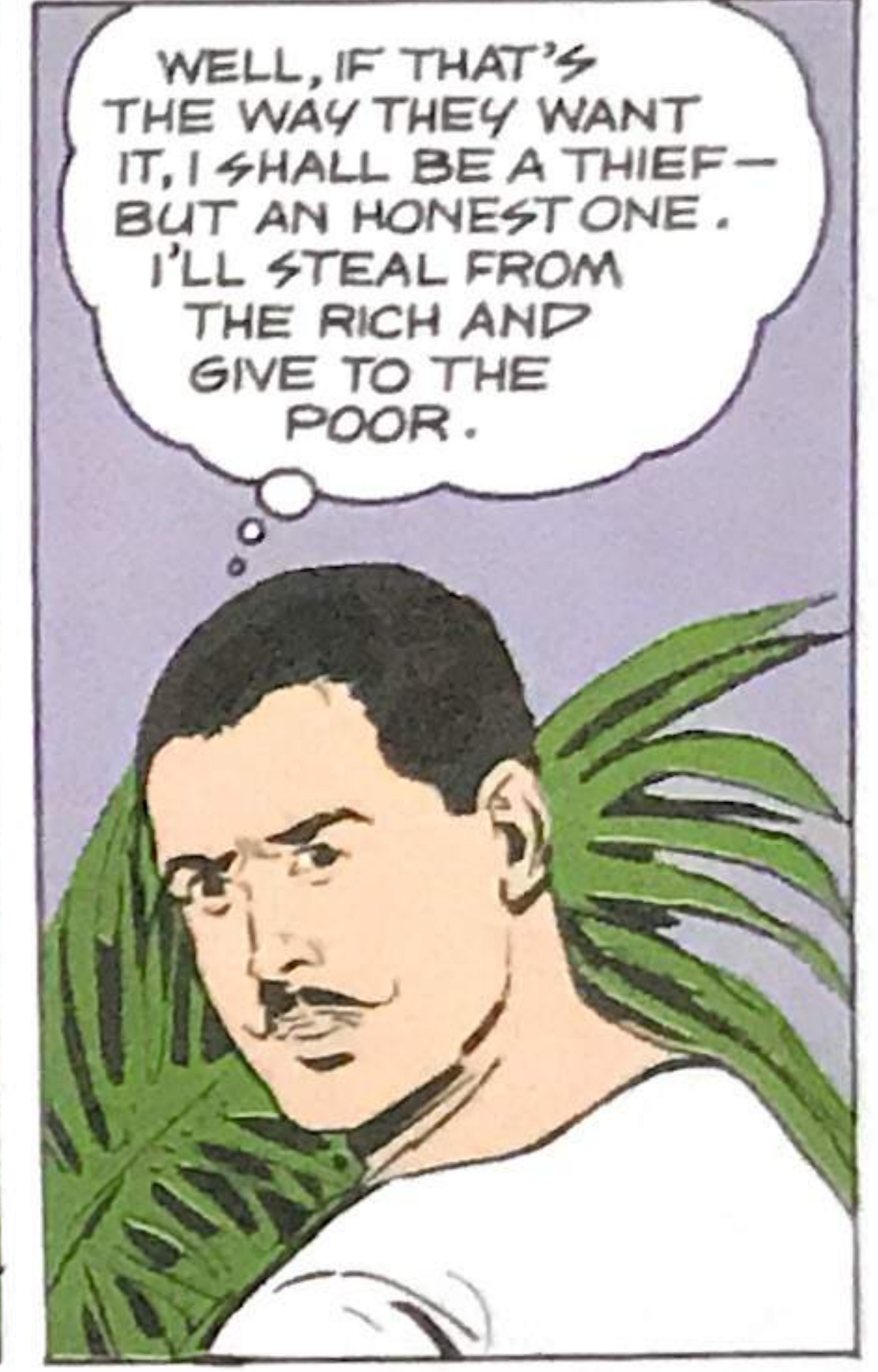
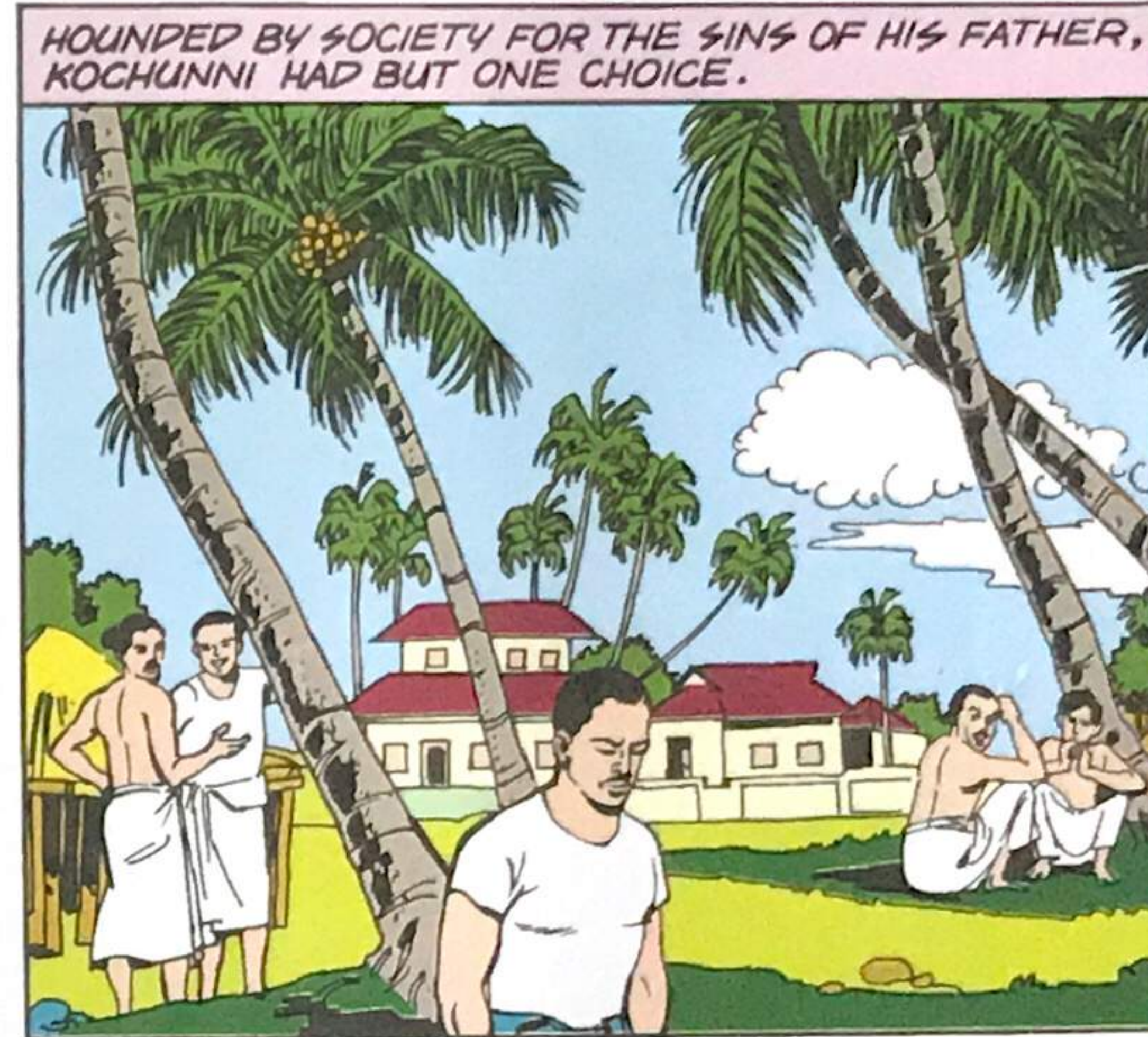
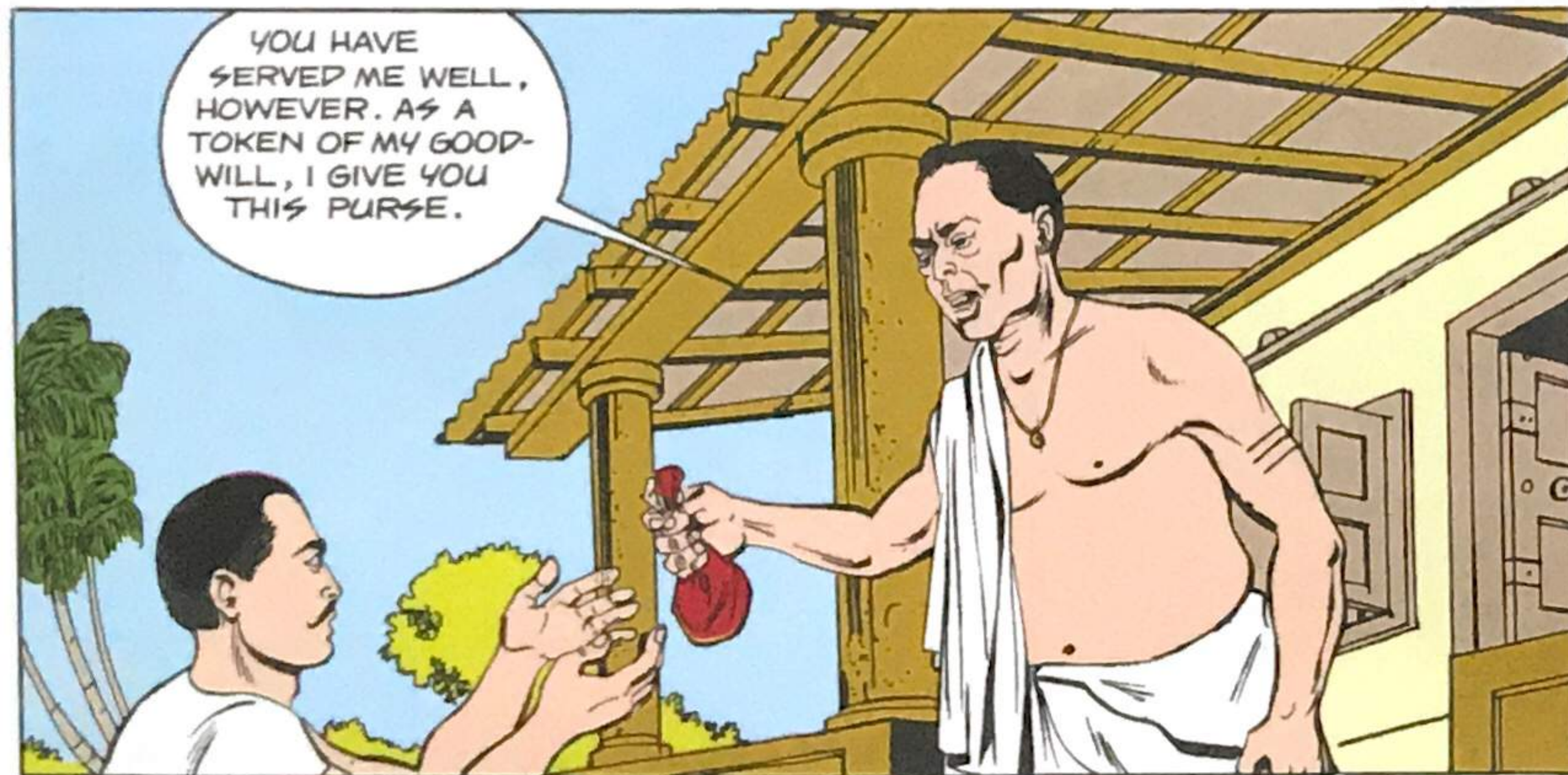
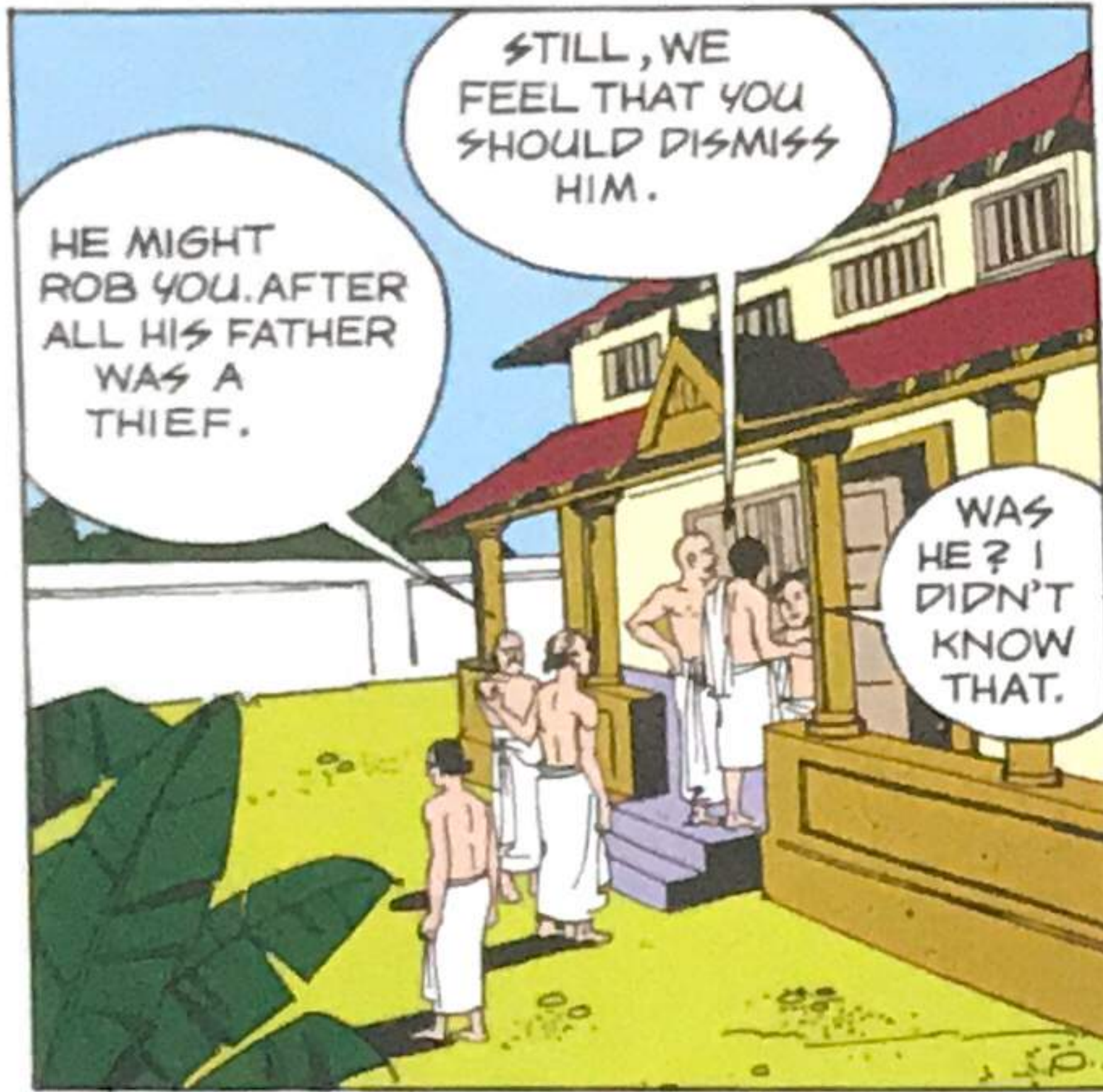
WHAT A LIFE!

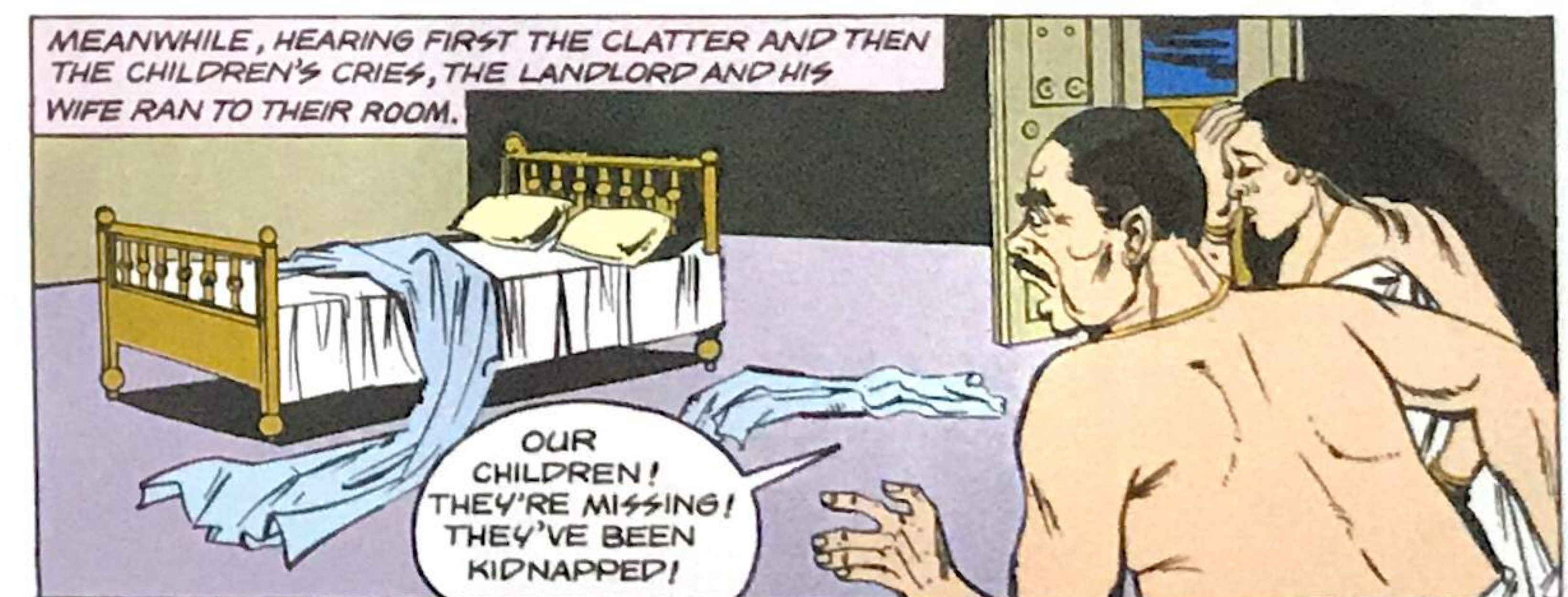


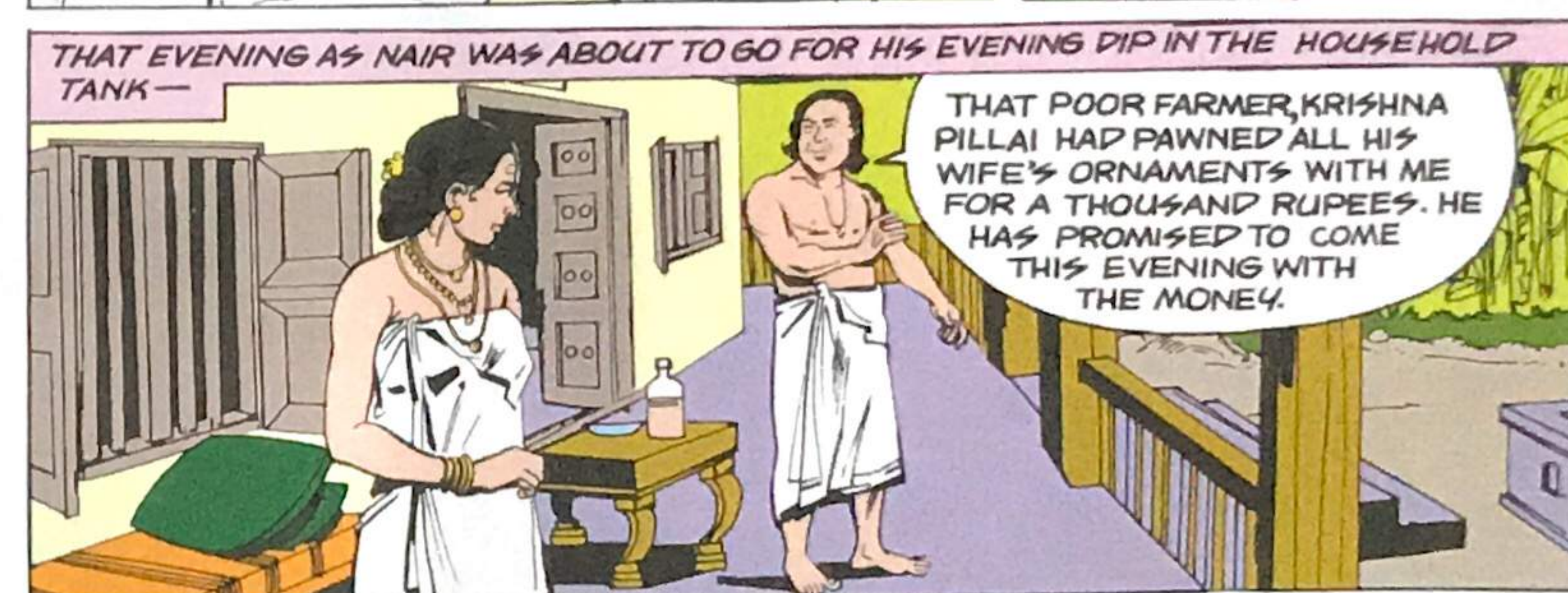
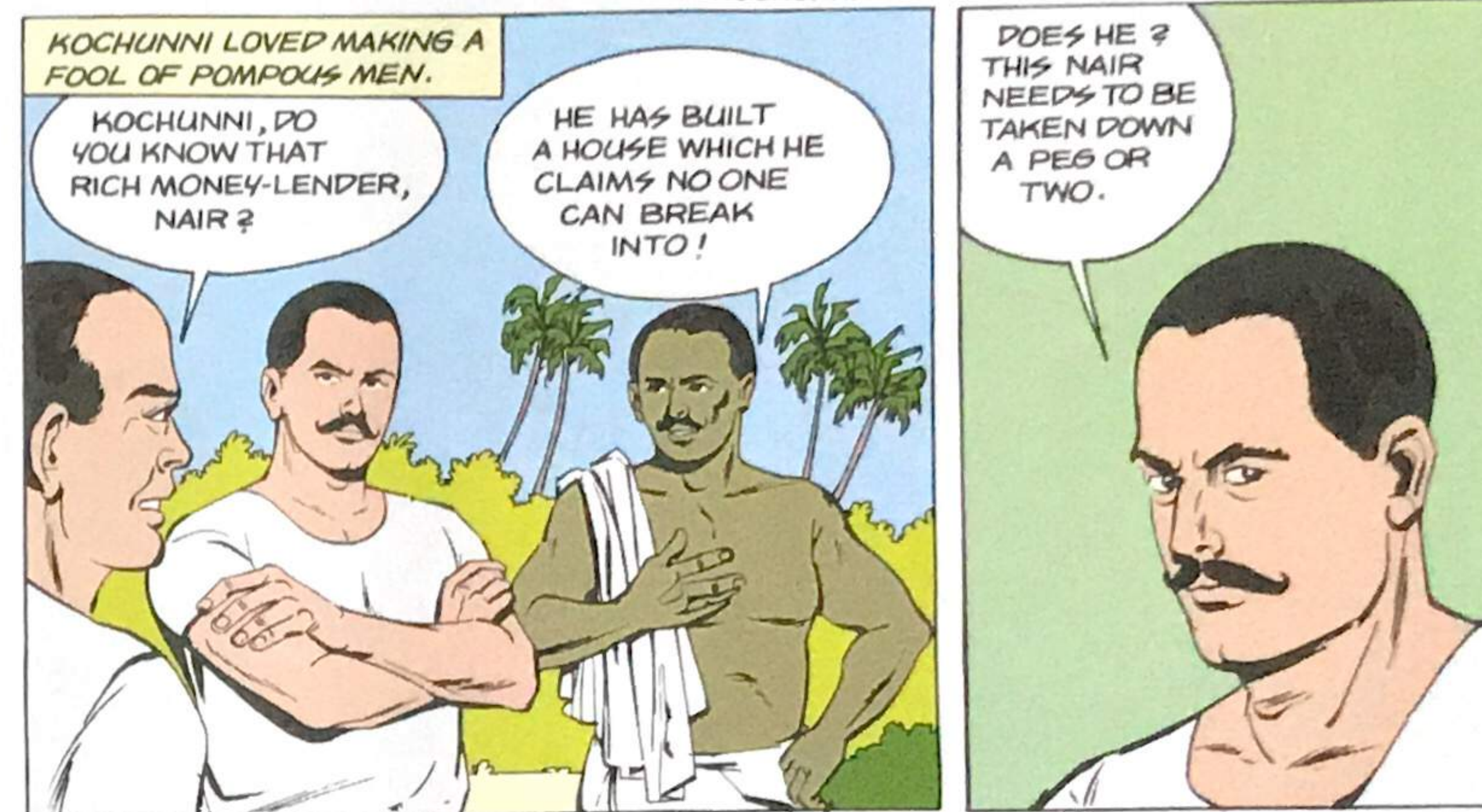
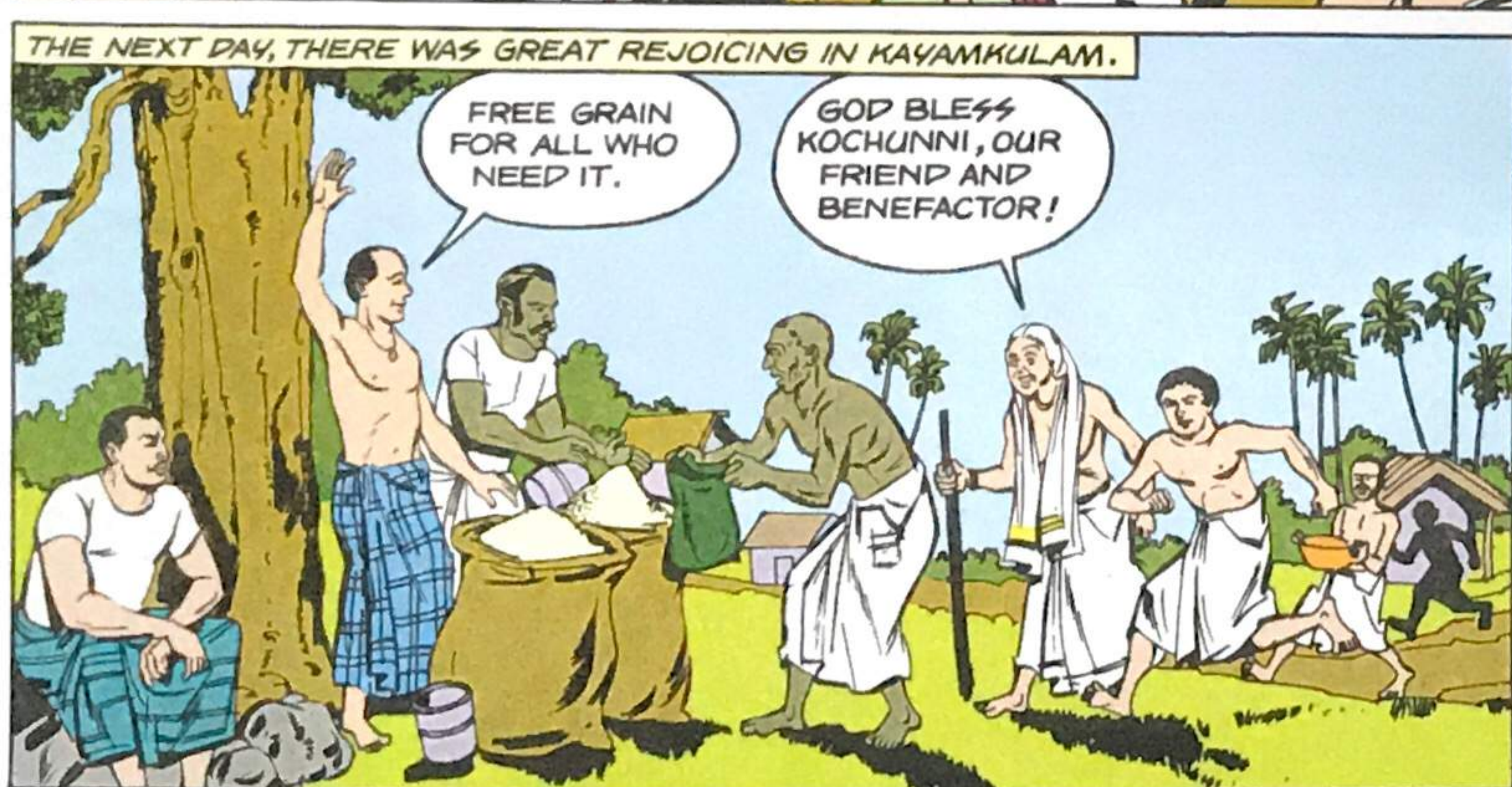
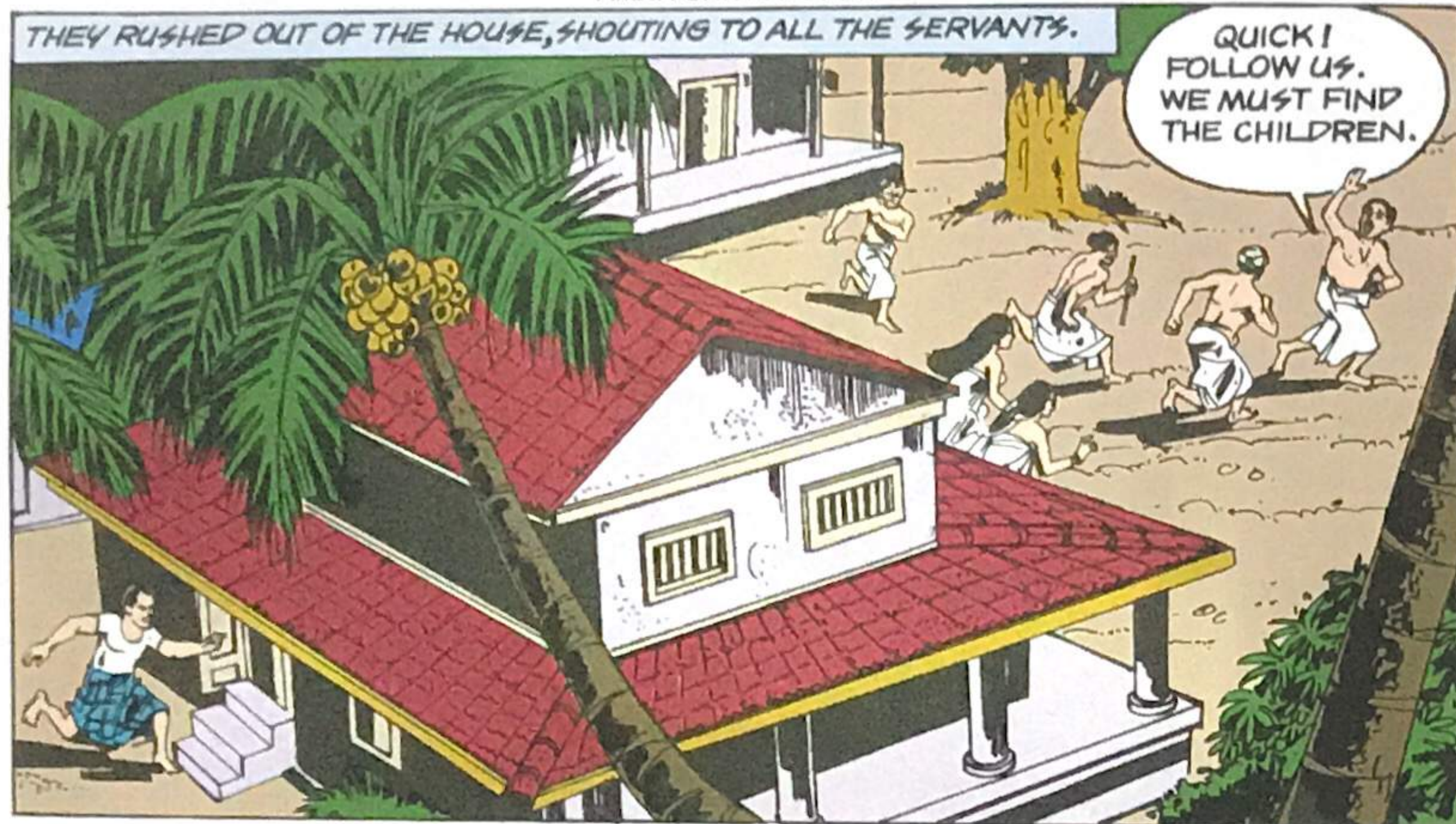












A SHORT WHILE LATER —



HEY, ARE YOU INSIDE?

WHAT IS IT?

IN THE GATHERING DUSK, SHE SAW THE FAINT OUTLINE OF A PORTLY FIGURE, GLEAMING WITH OIL.

HAVEN'T YOU BATHED YET?



NO! I HAVEN'T. KRISHNA PILLAI CAME TO ME WITH THE MONEY. PUT IT IN THE SAFE AND BRING ME HIS ORNAMENTS.

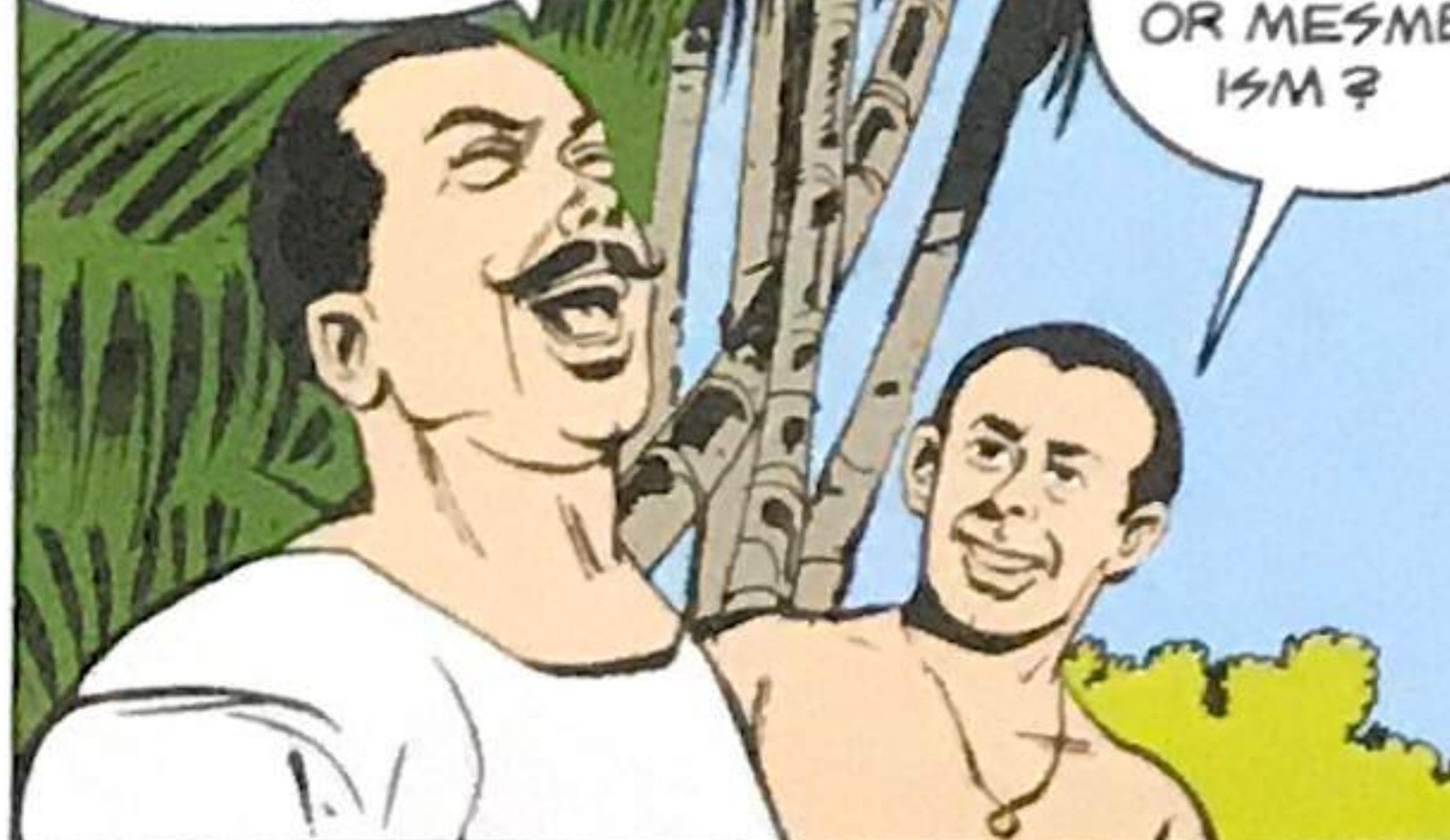
THE UNSUSPECTING WOMAN DID AS SHE WAS TOLD.



HERE YOU ARE.

LITTLE DID SHE REALIZE THAT THE FIGURE SHE SAW WAS OF KOCHUNNI HIMSELF!

IF ONLY THE SKIN-FLINT NAIR KNEW WHAT WAS IN STORE FOR HIM!



KOCHUNNI, WHAT WAS IT? MAGIC OR MESMERISM?

A FEW DAYS LATER, KRISHNA PILLAI STOOD BEFORE NAIR.

HERE IS YOUR MONEY. PLEASE RETURN MY ORNAMENTS.



NAIR WAS INNOCENT OF ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED. HE WENT AND OPENED THE SAFE.



HEY, HOW DID THIS STRANGE BAG GET HERE?

I PUT IT THERE. YOU TOLD ME TO. DON'T YOU REMEMBER GIVING IT TO ME?

NAIR WAS BEWILDERED — AND SO WAS HIS WIFE!

B-B-BUT I NEVER GAVE YOU ANYTHING. WHERE ARE KRISHNA PILLAI'S ORNAMENTS?

I GAVE THEM TO YOU THAT EVENING!



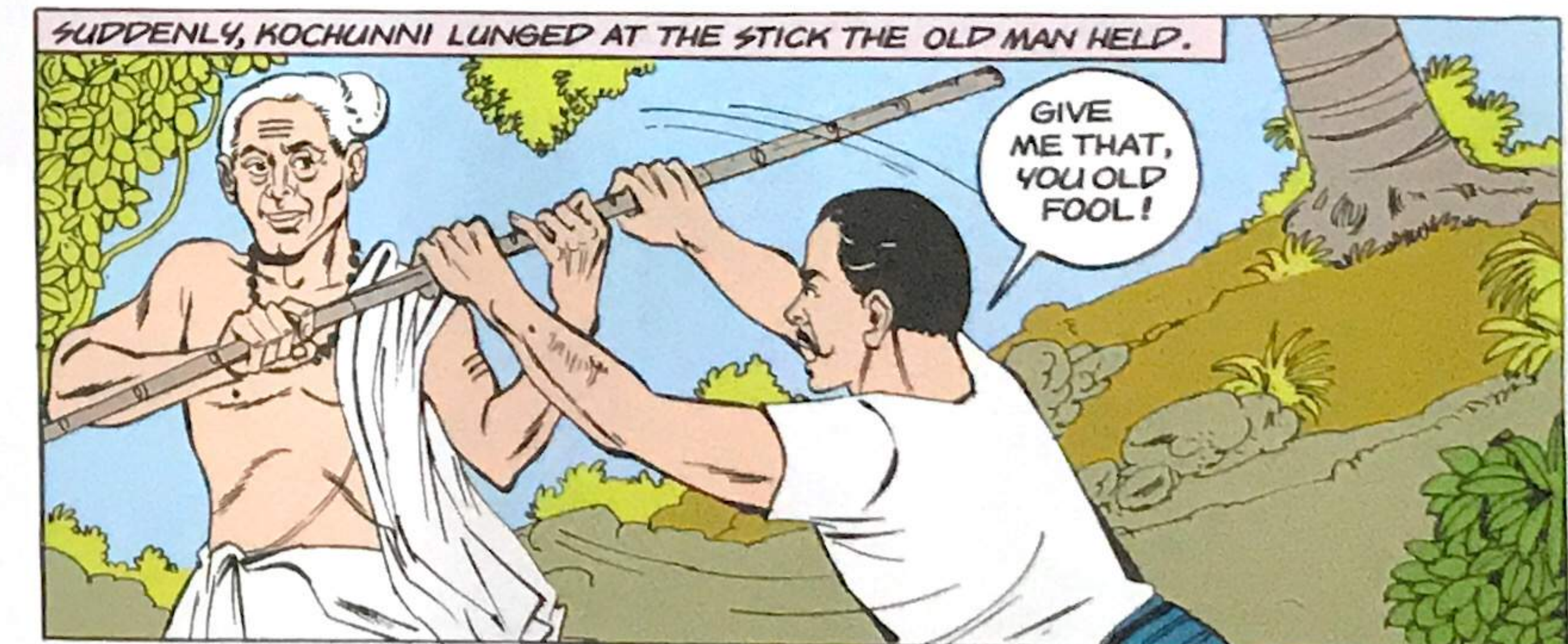
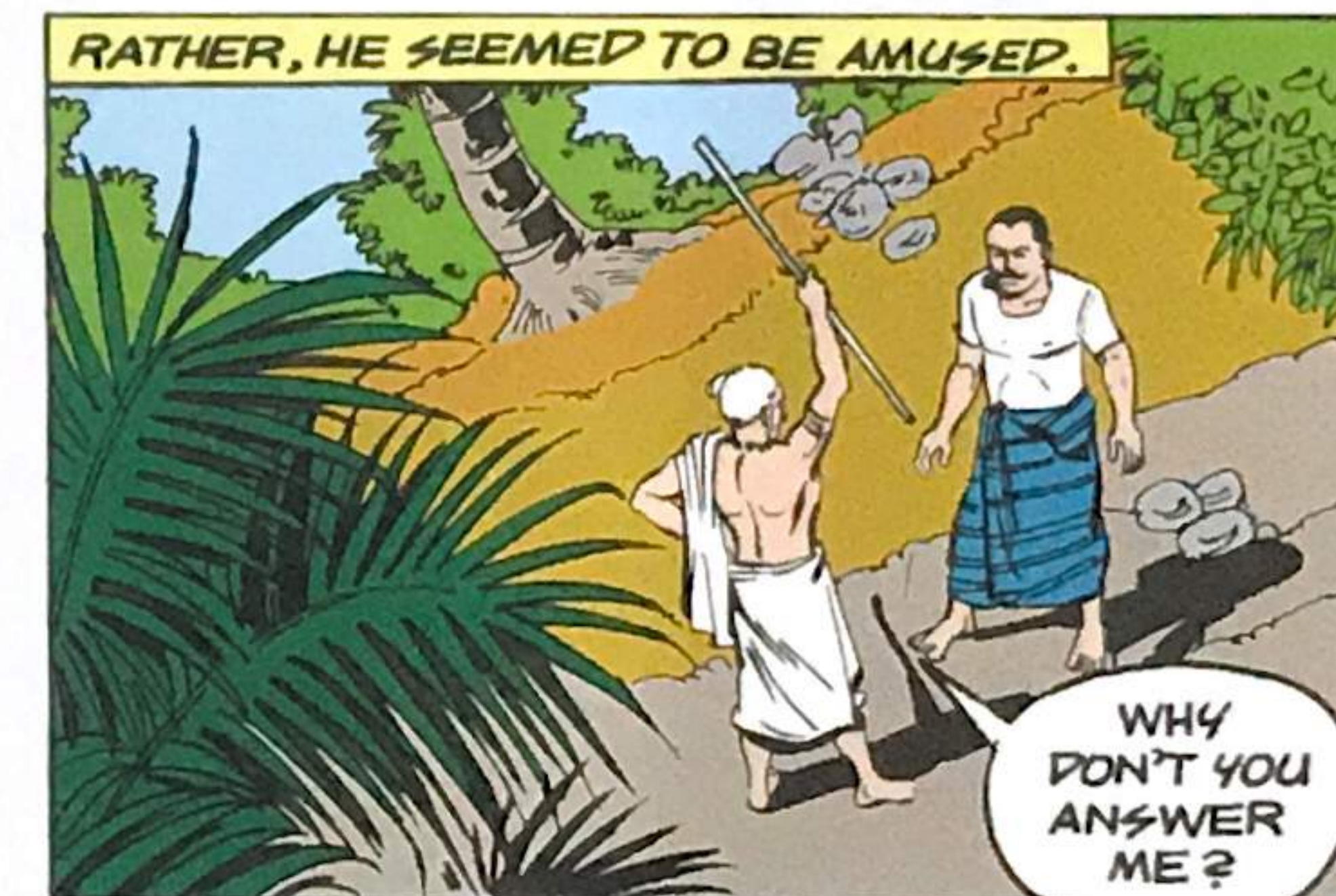
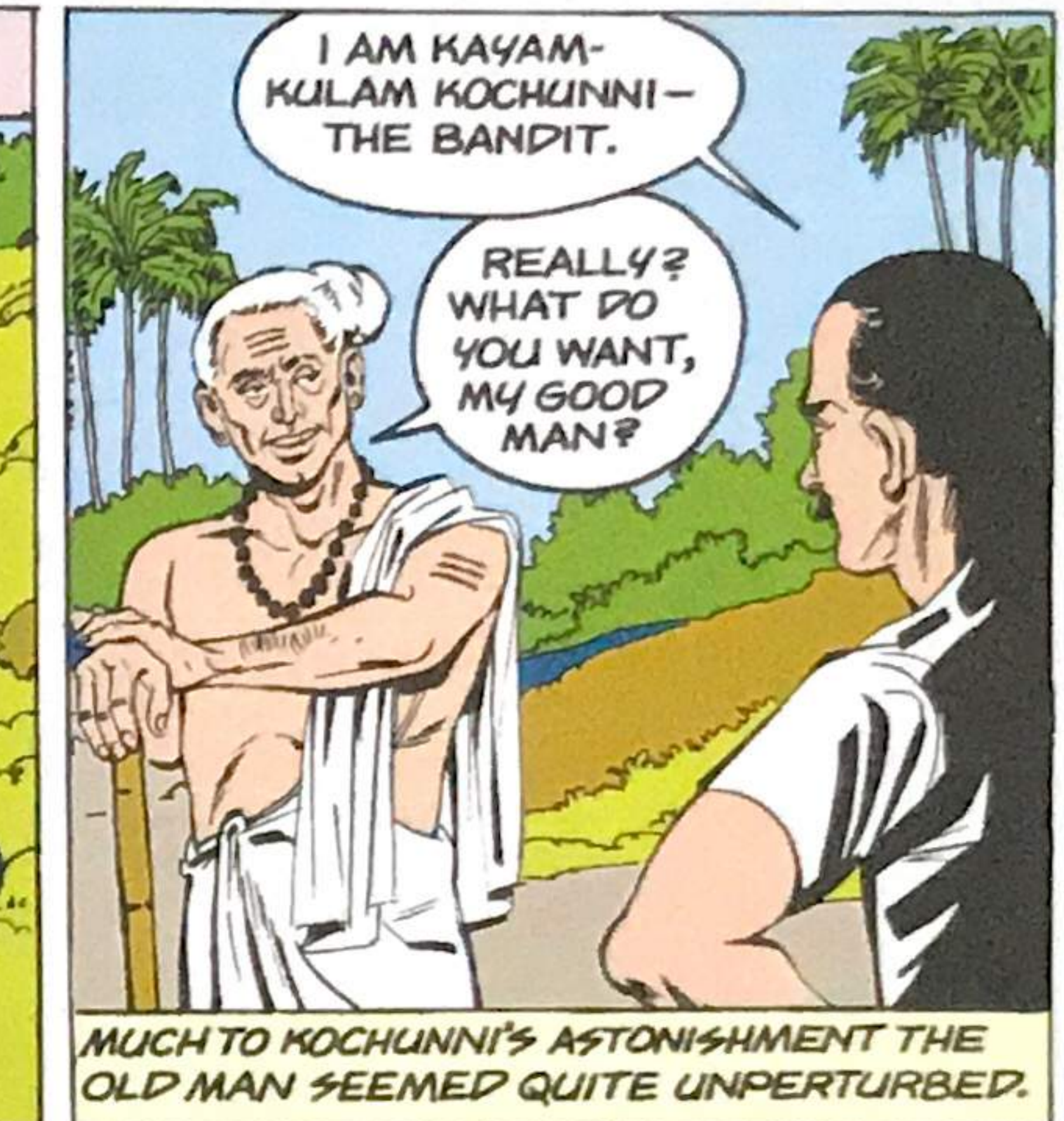
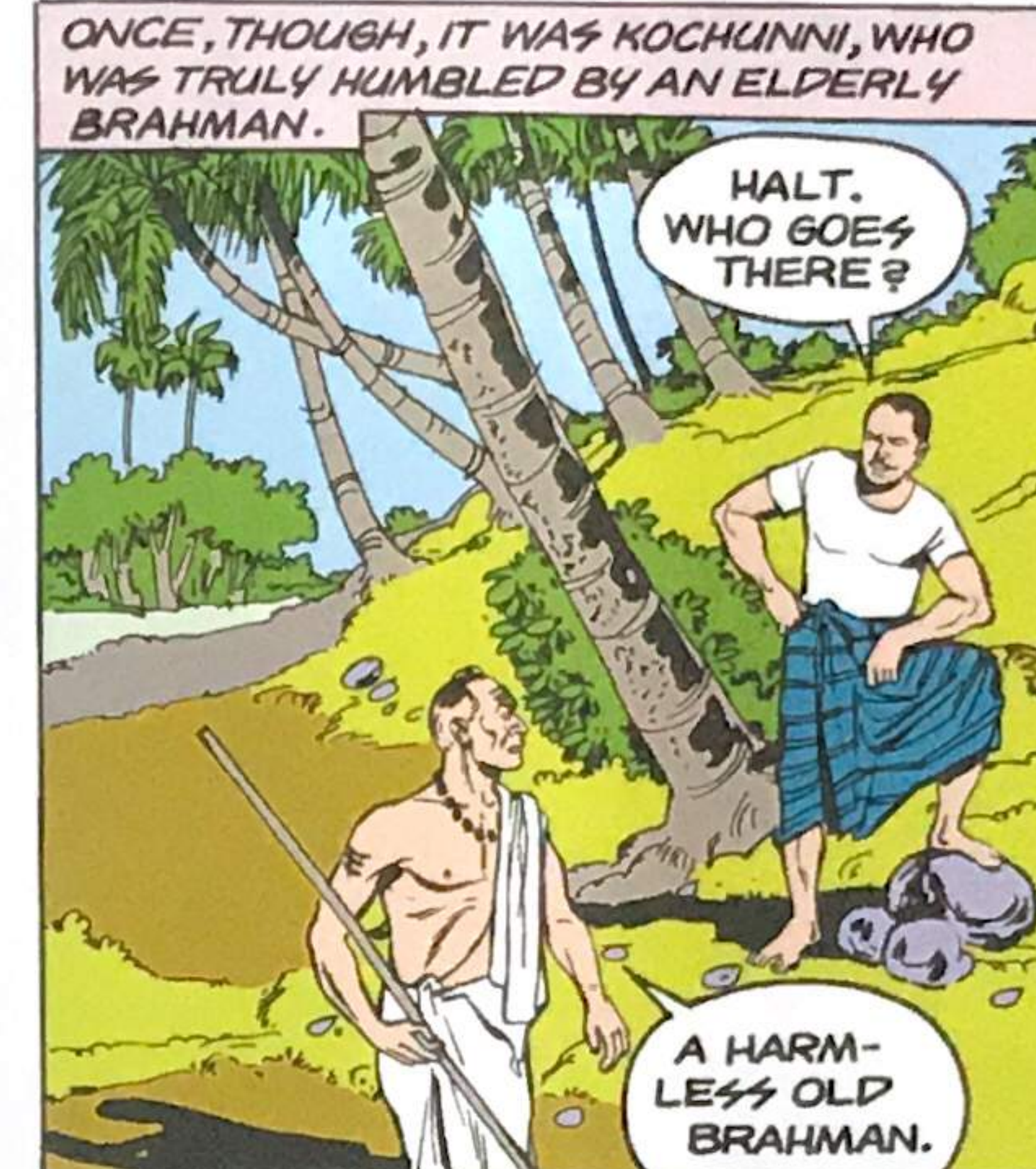
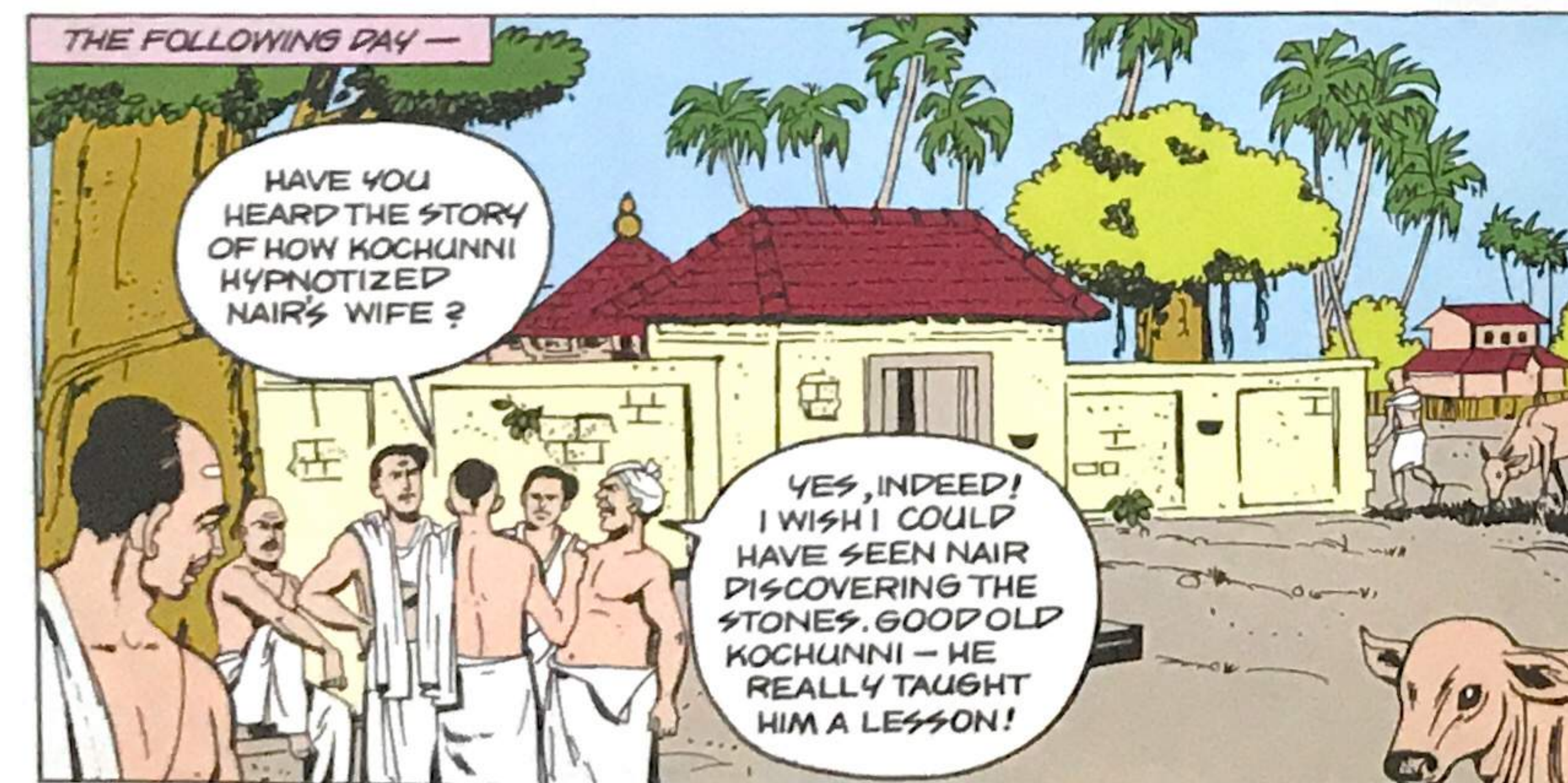
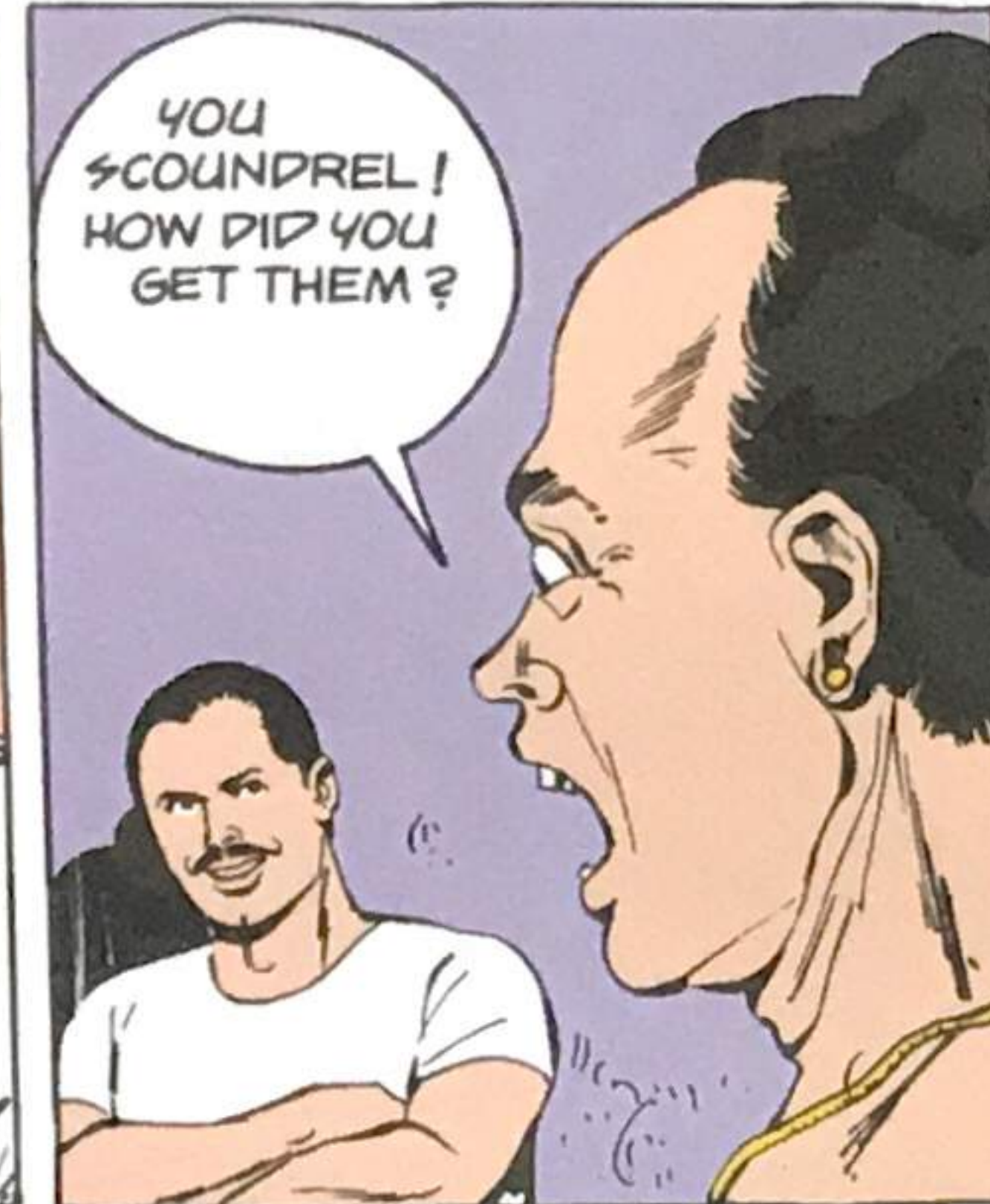
NAIR TURNED PALE. HE FRANTICALLY OPENED THE BAG.

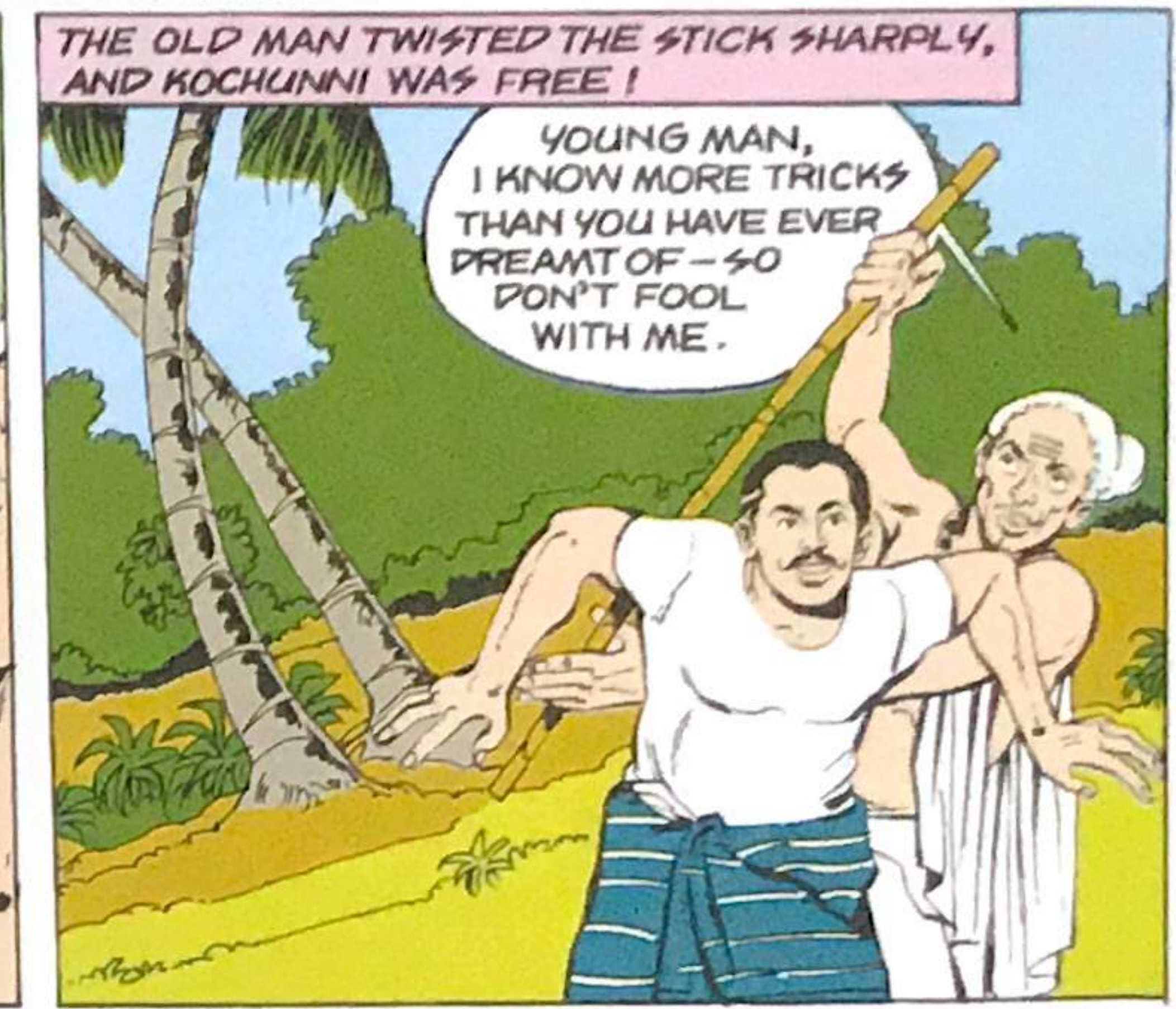
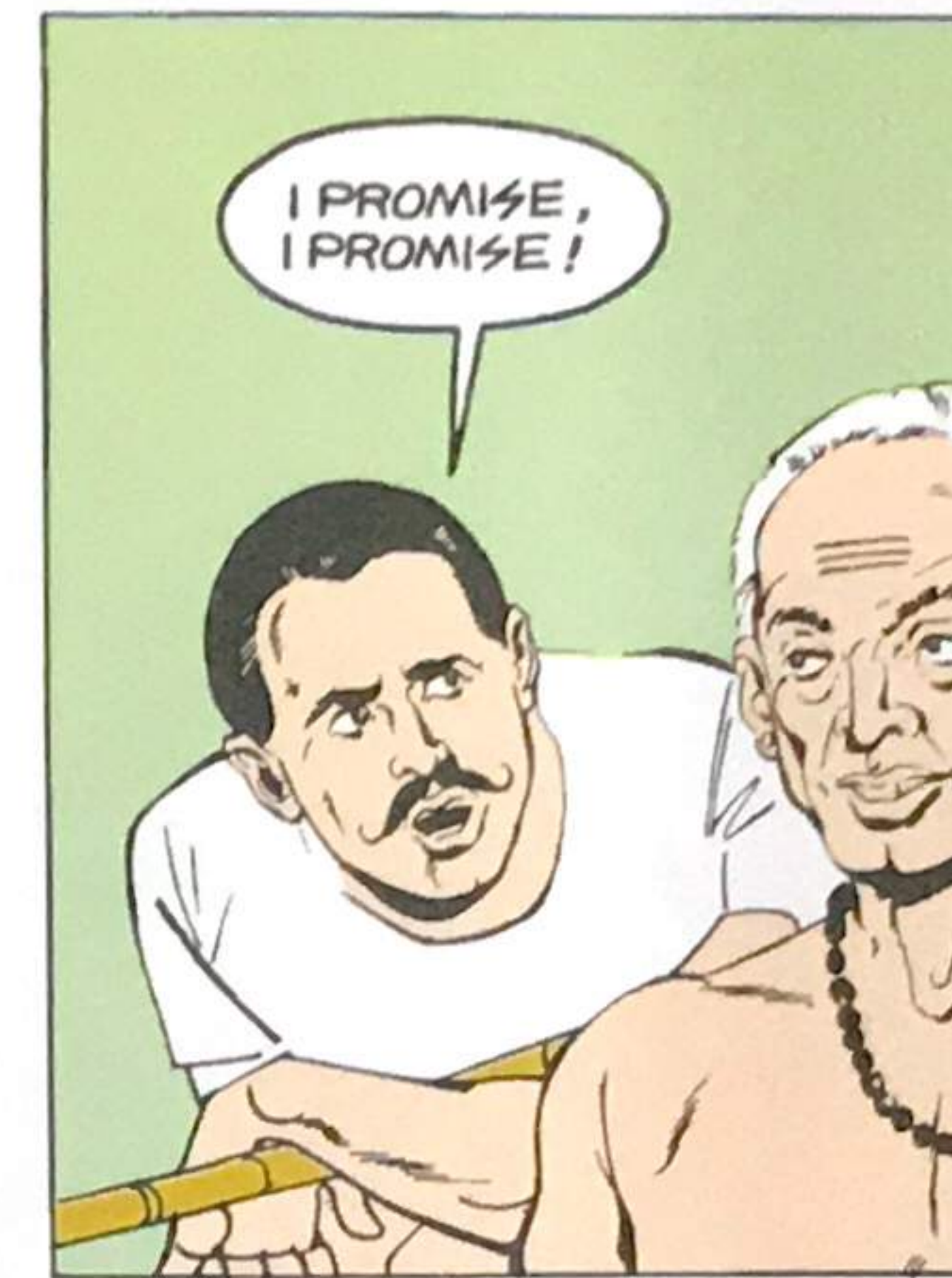
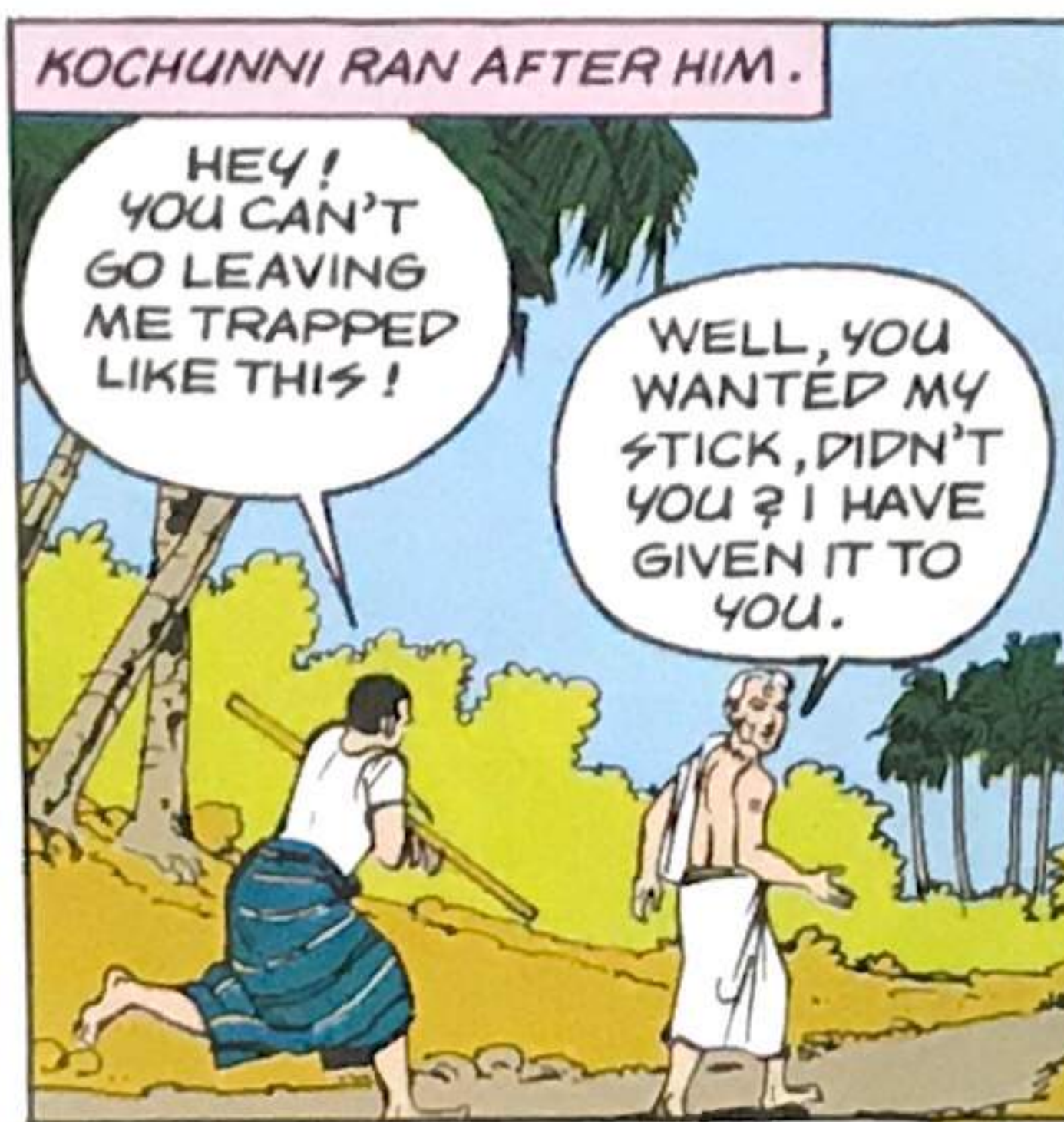
STONES! IT'S FULL OF PEBBLES! WE'VE BEEN CHEATED!

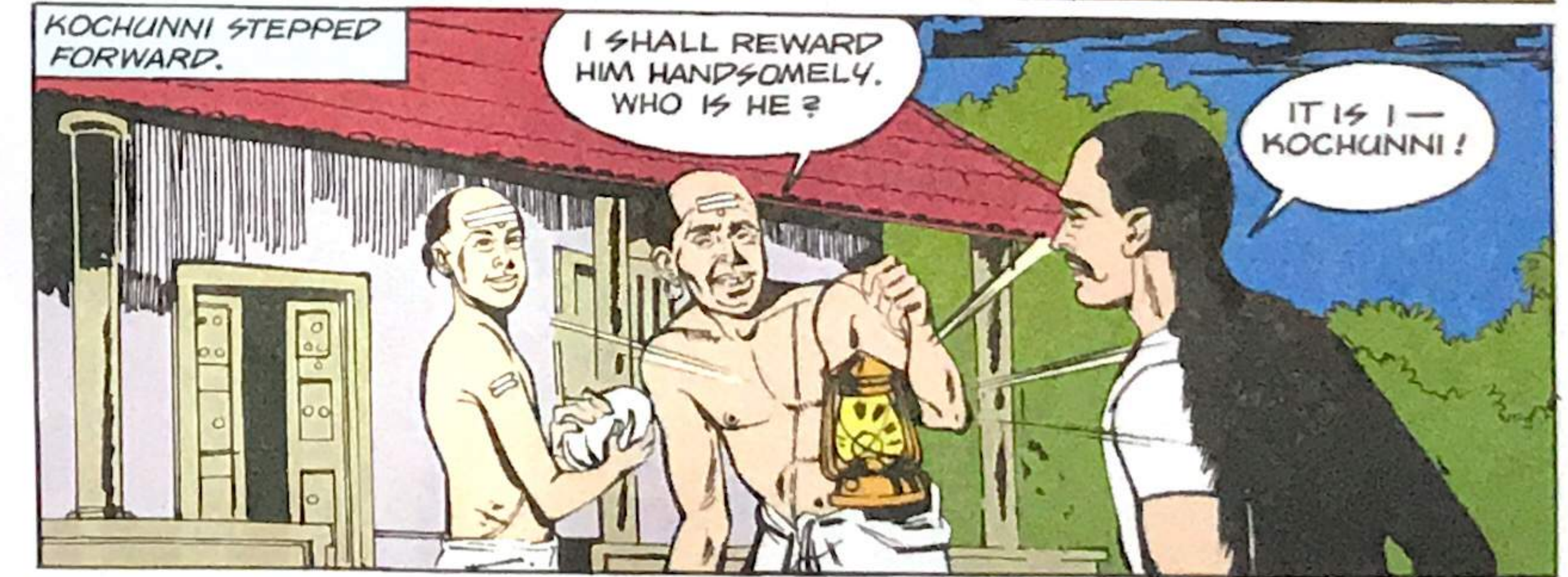
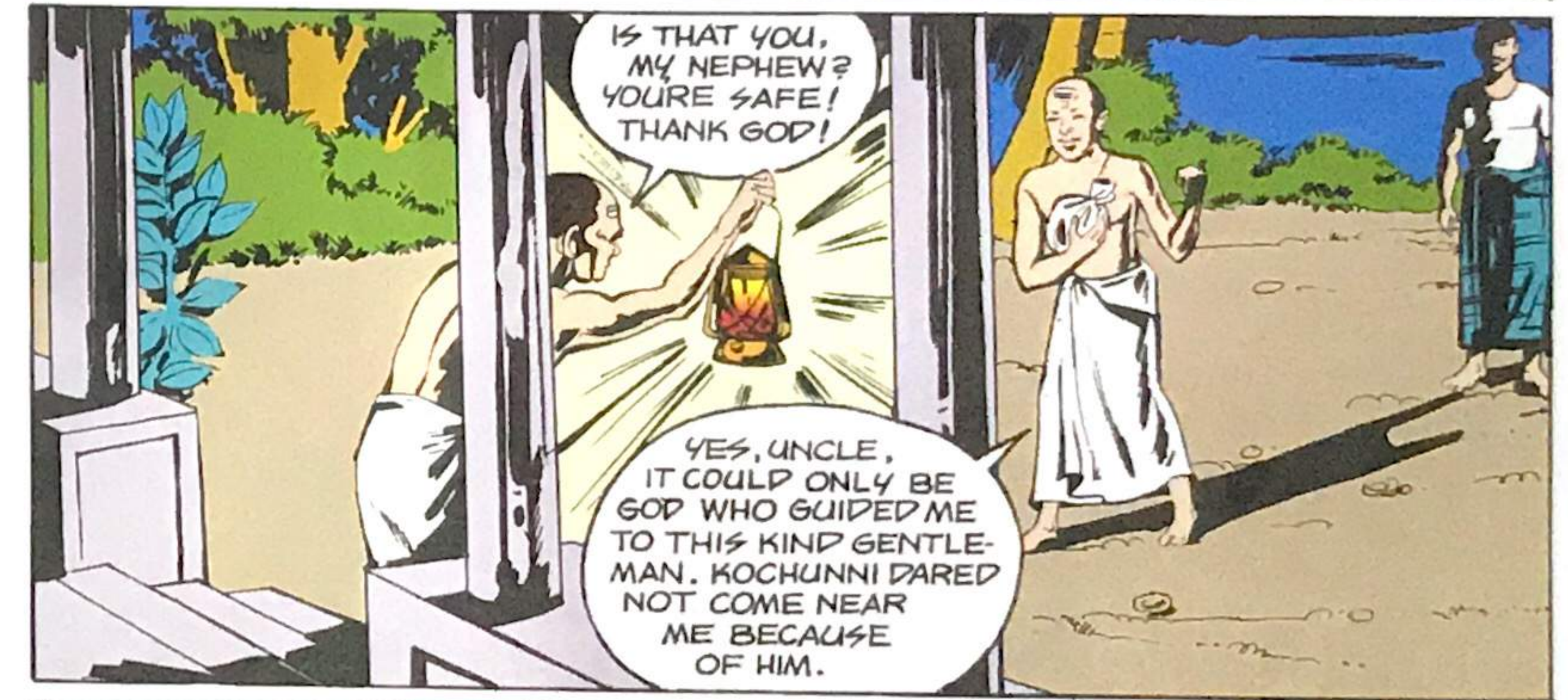
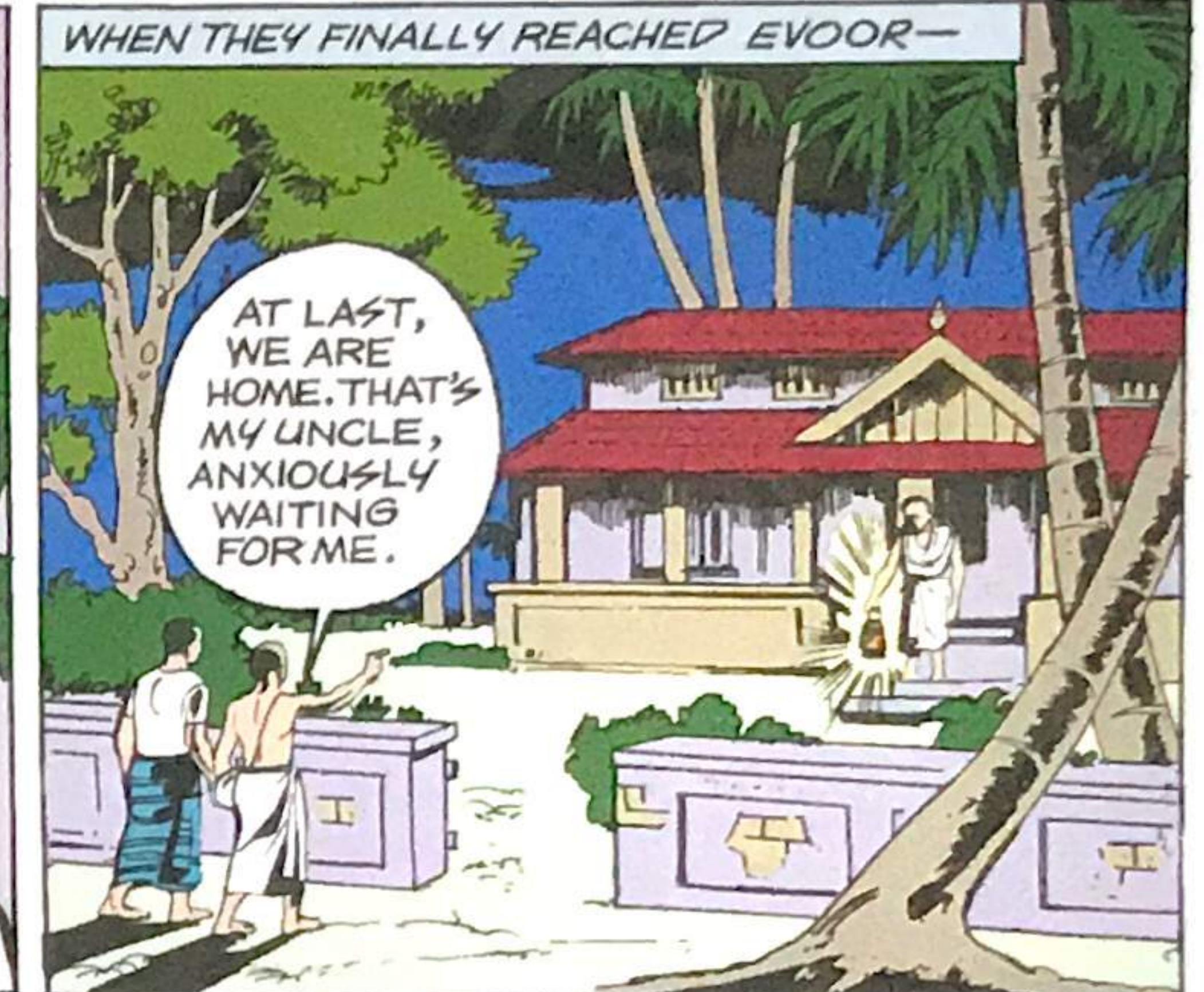
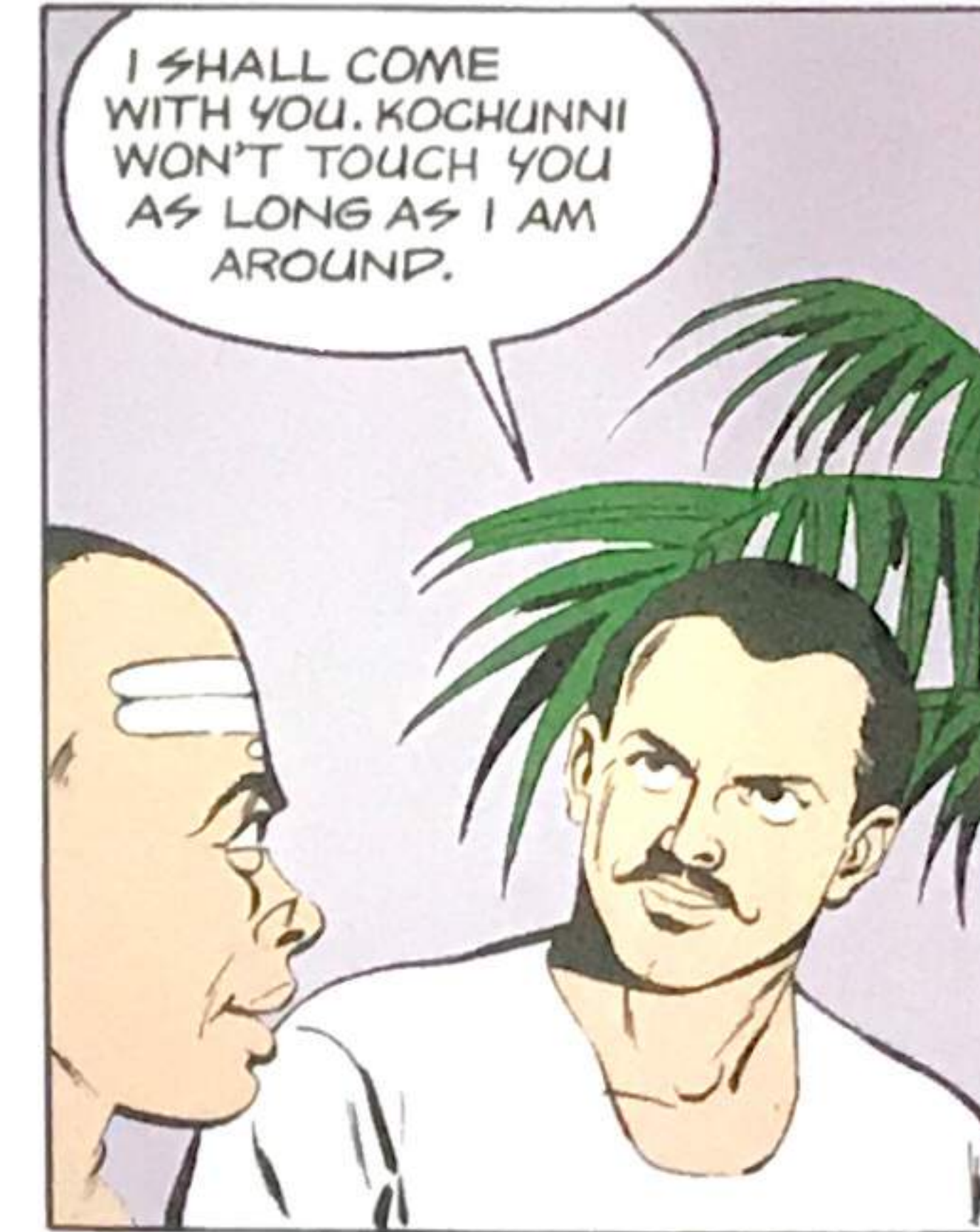
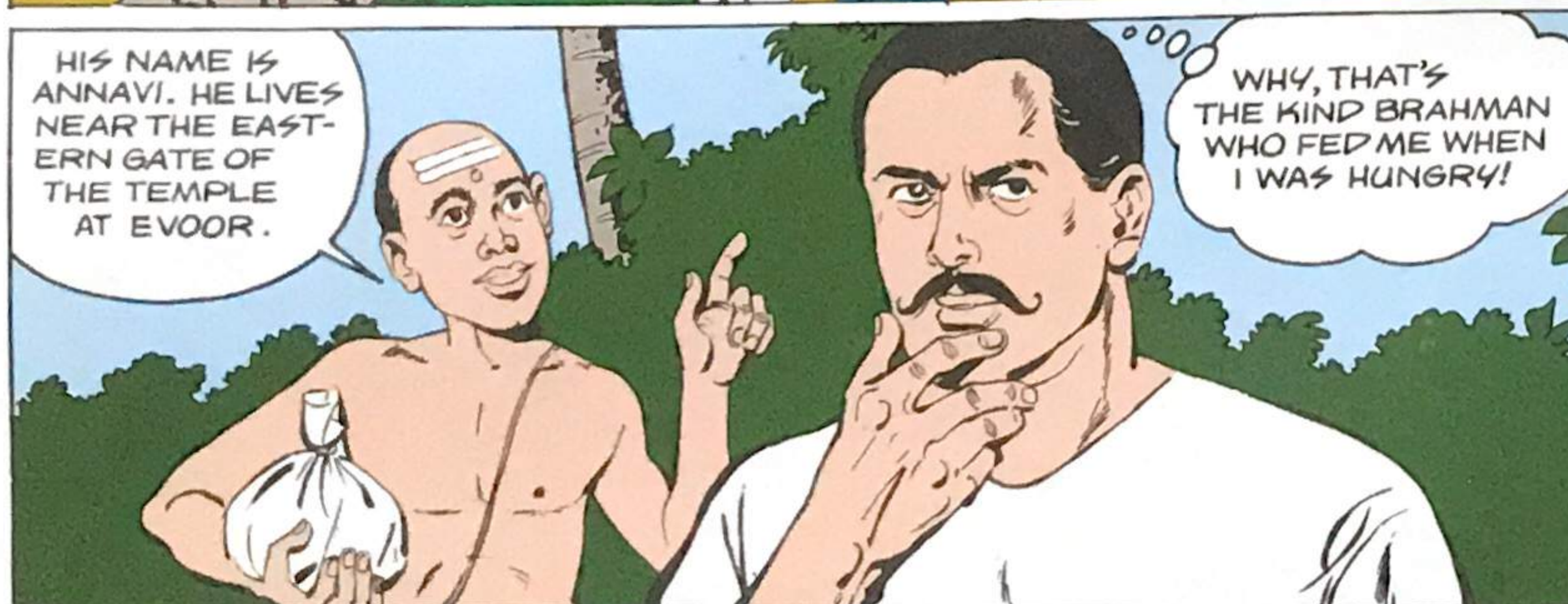
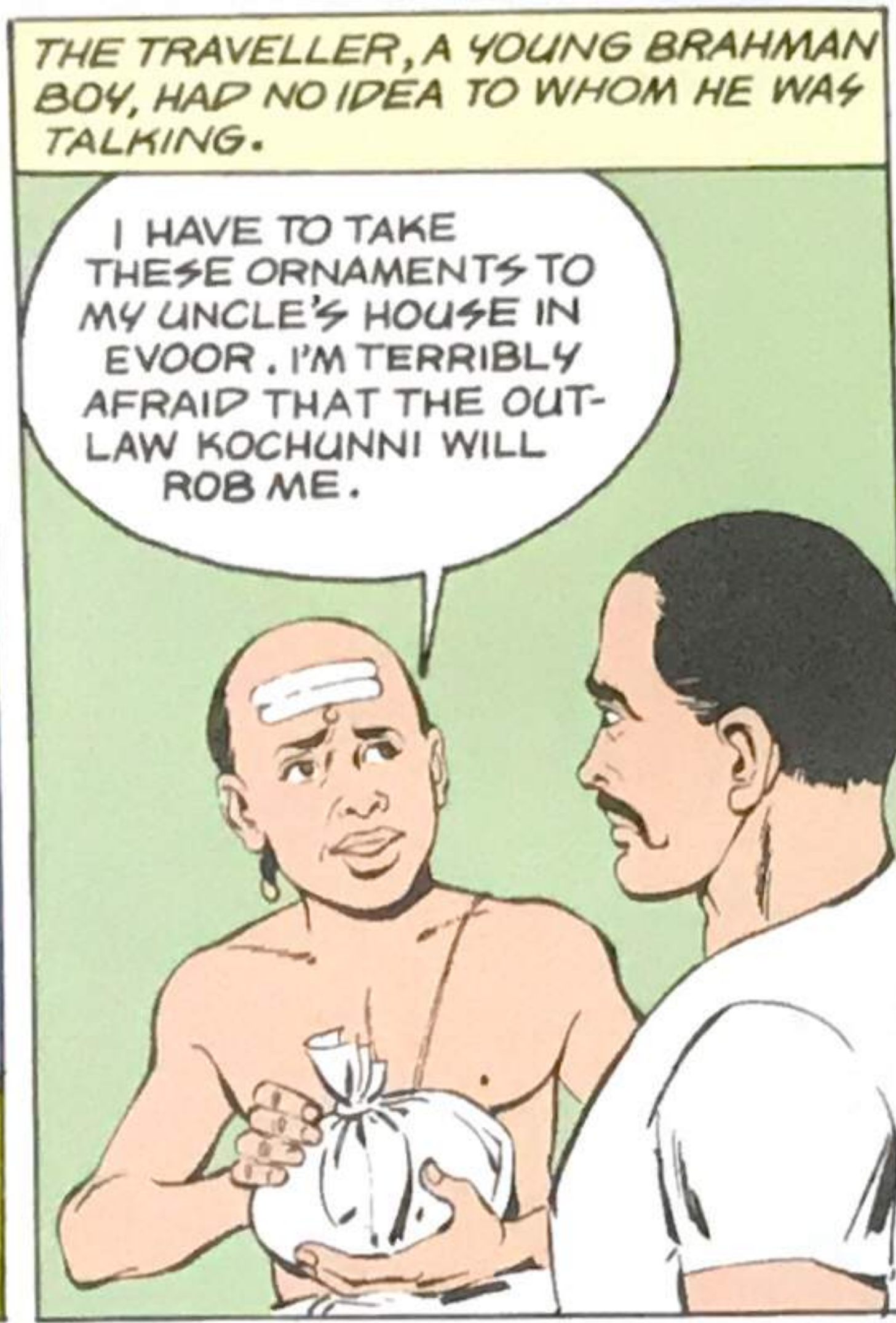
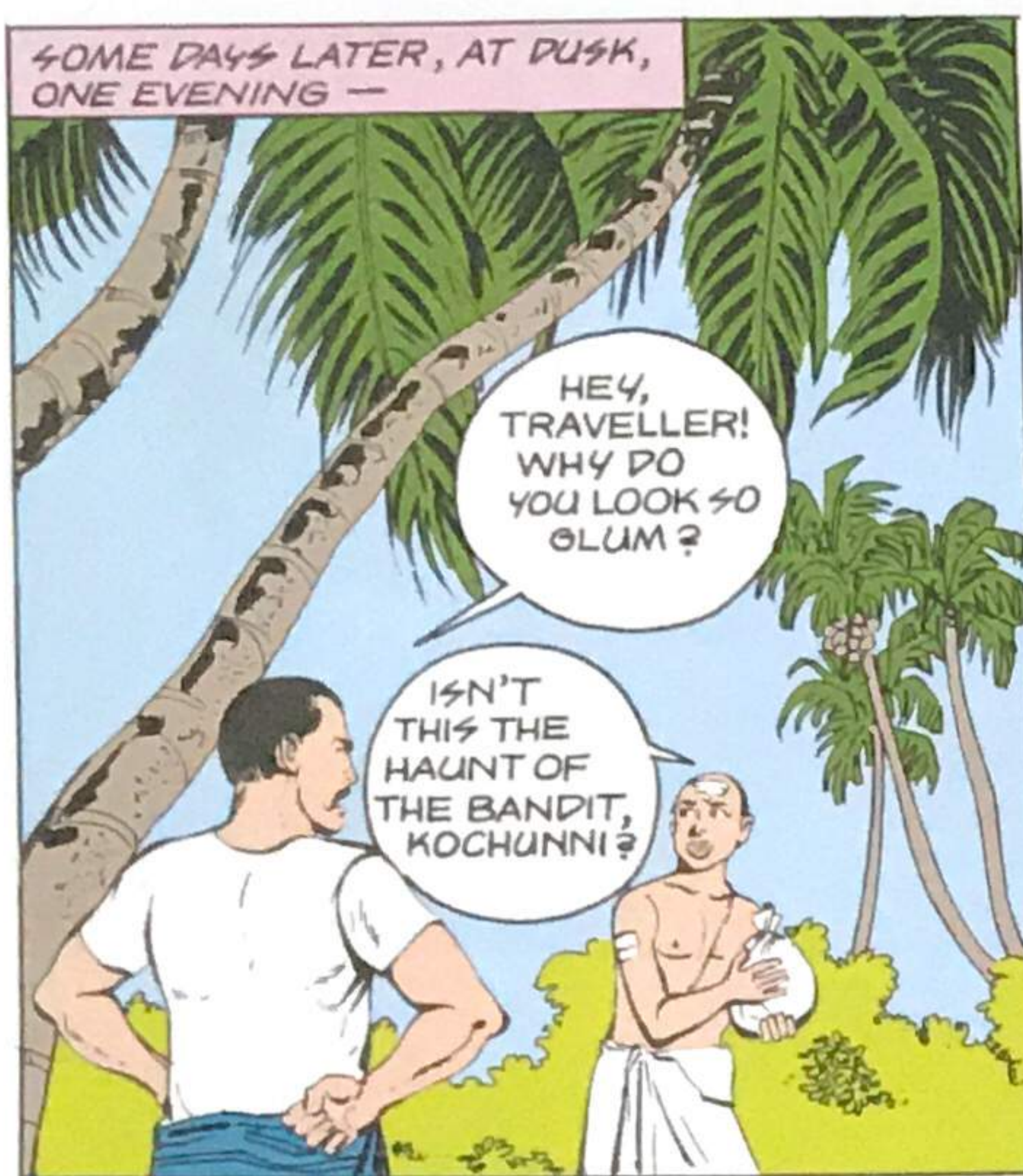


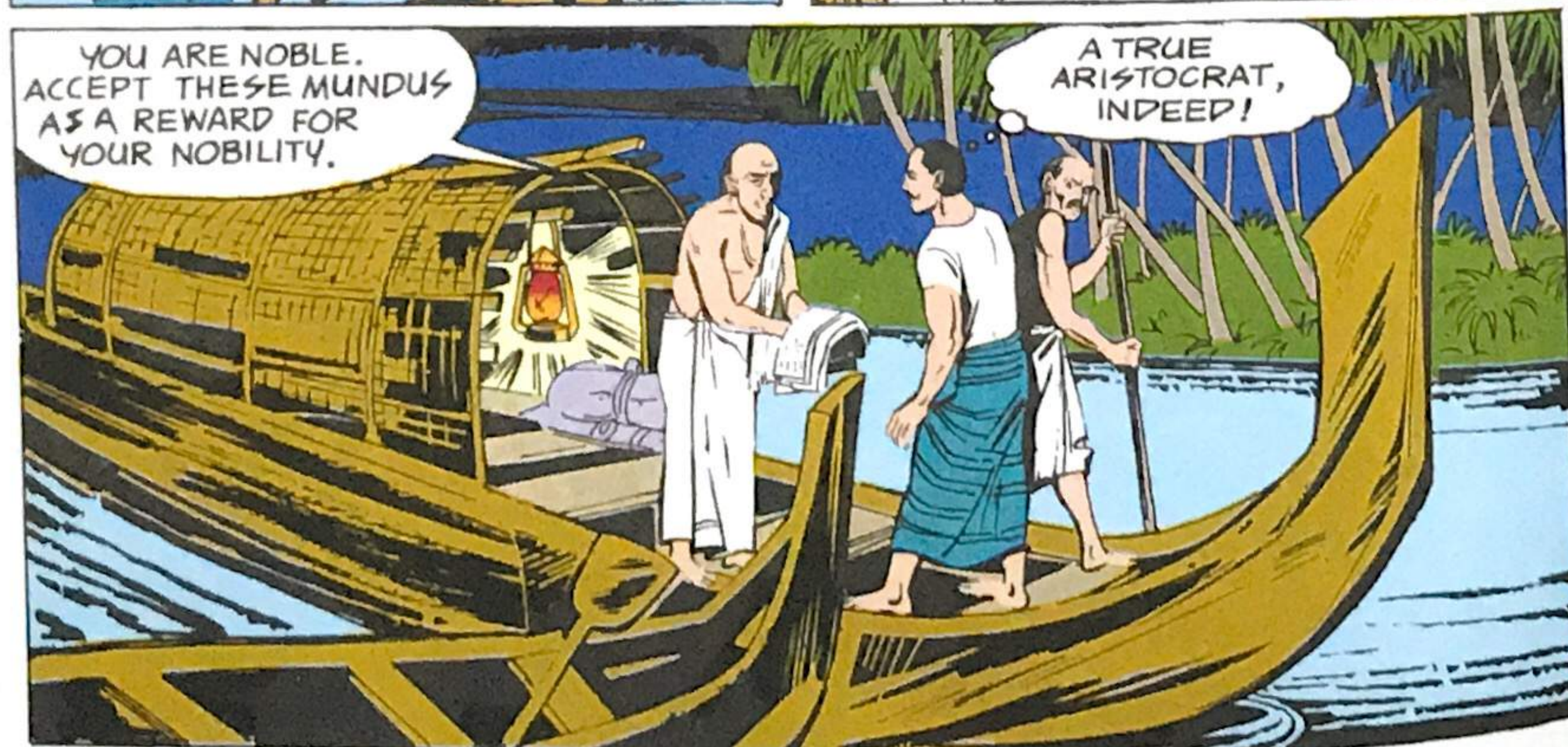
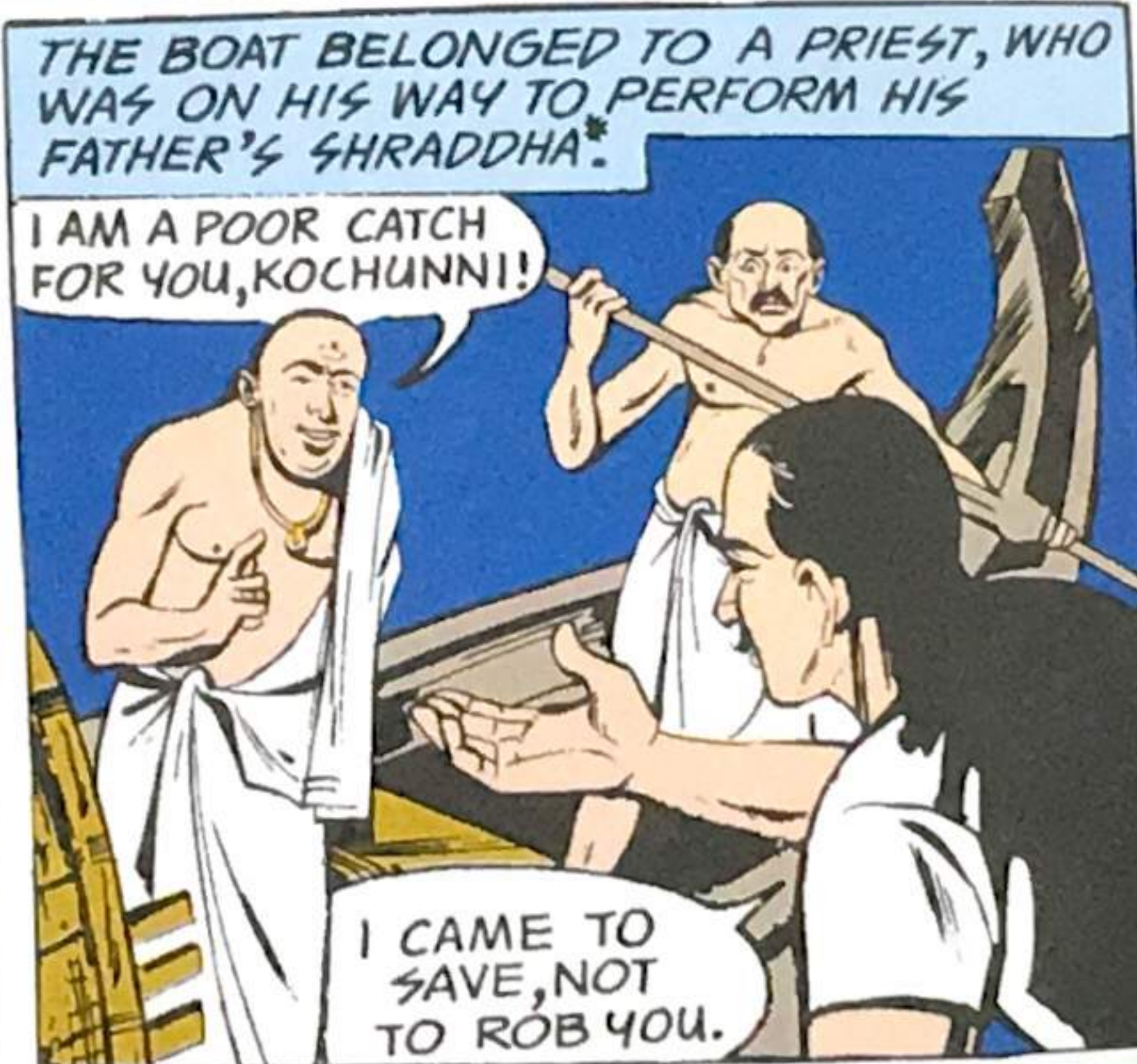
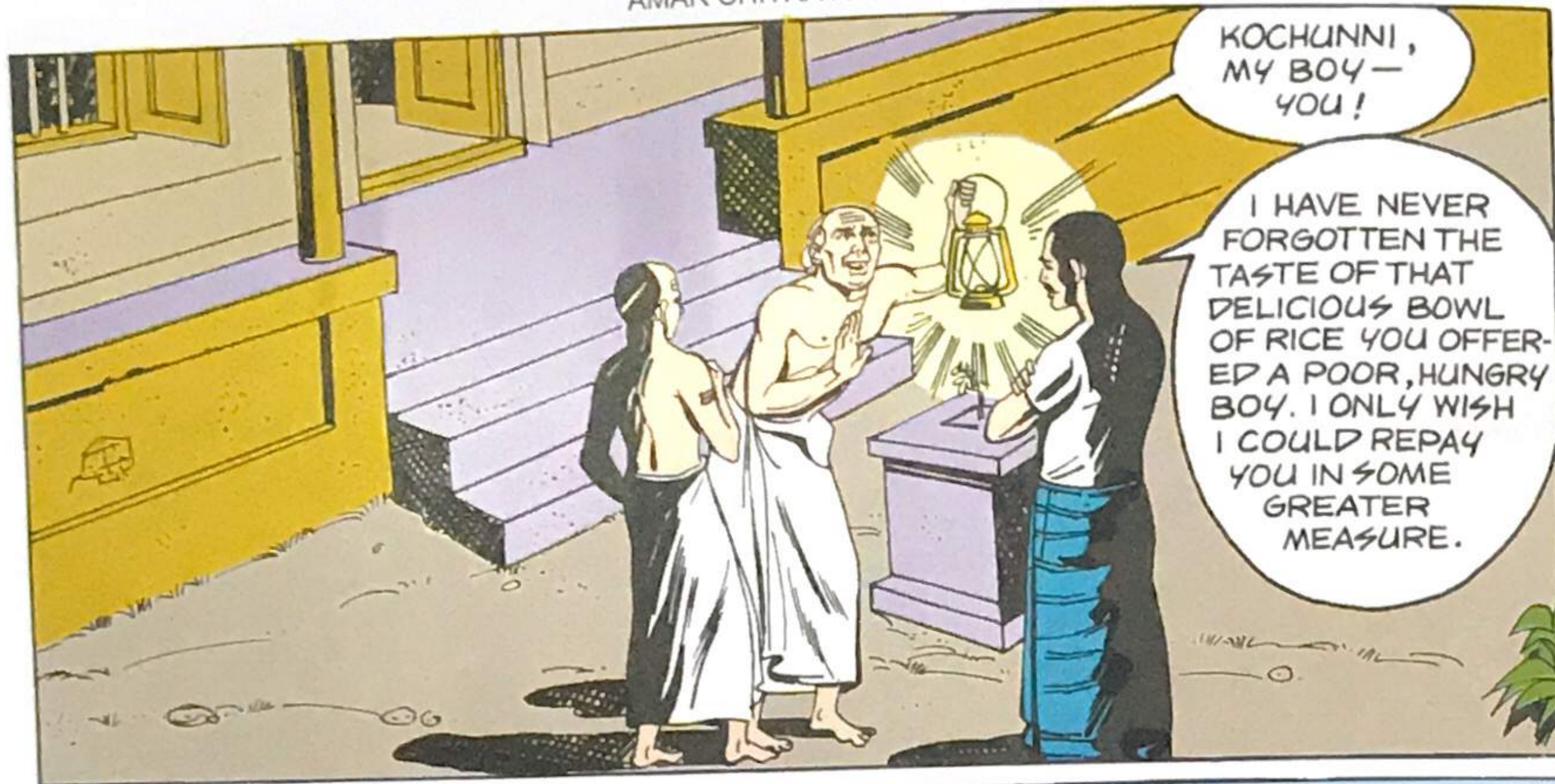
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

GIVE ME MY ORNAMENTS... OR ELSE!

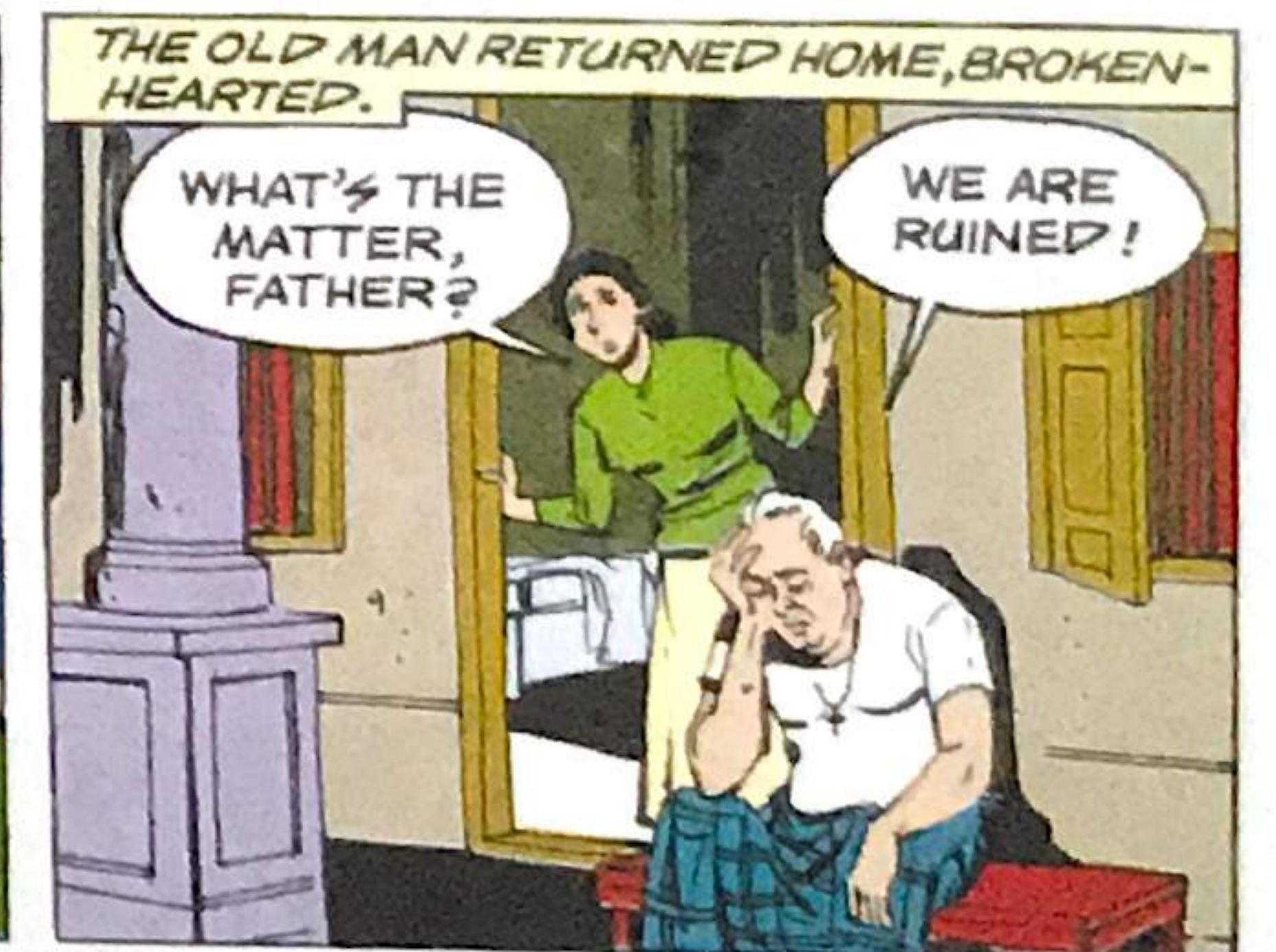
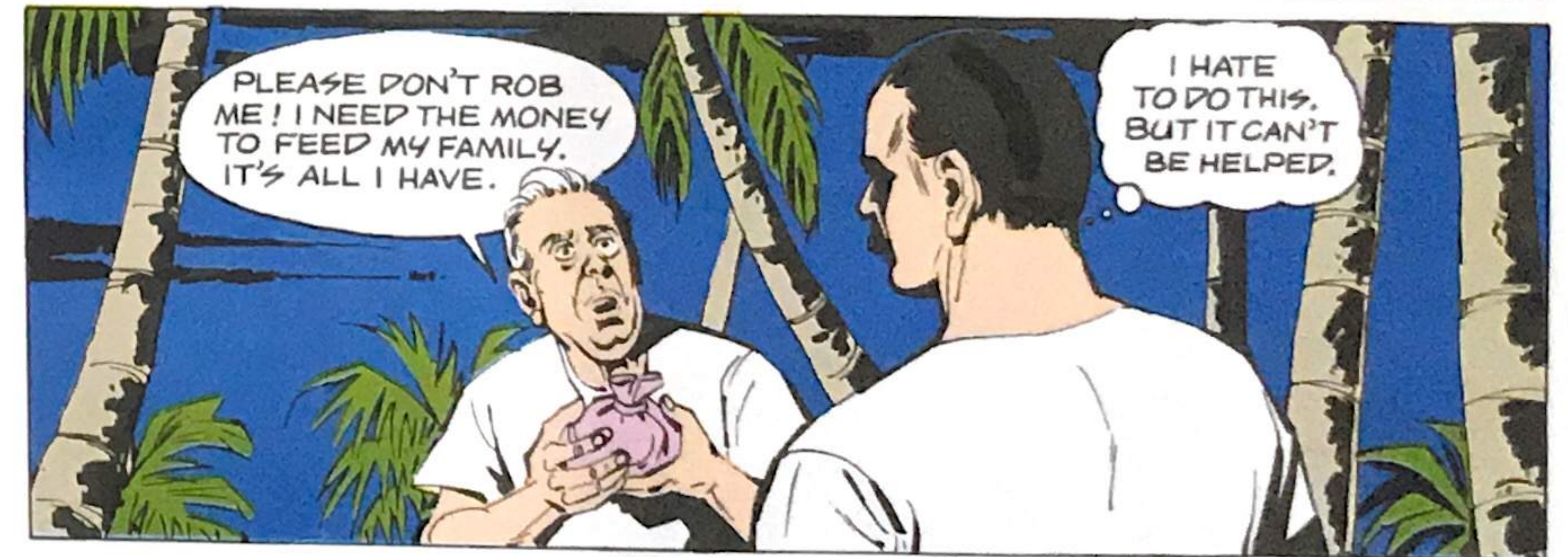
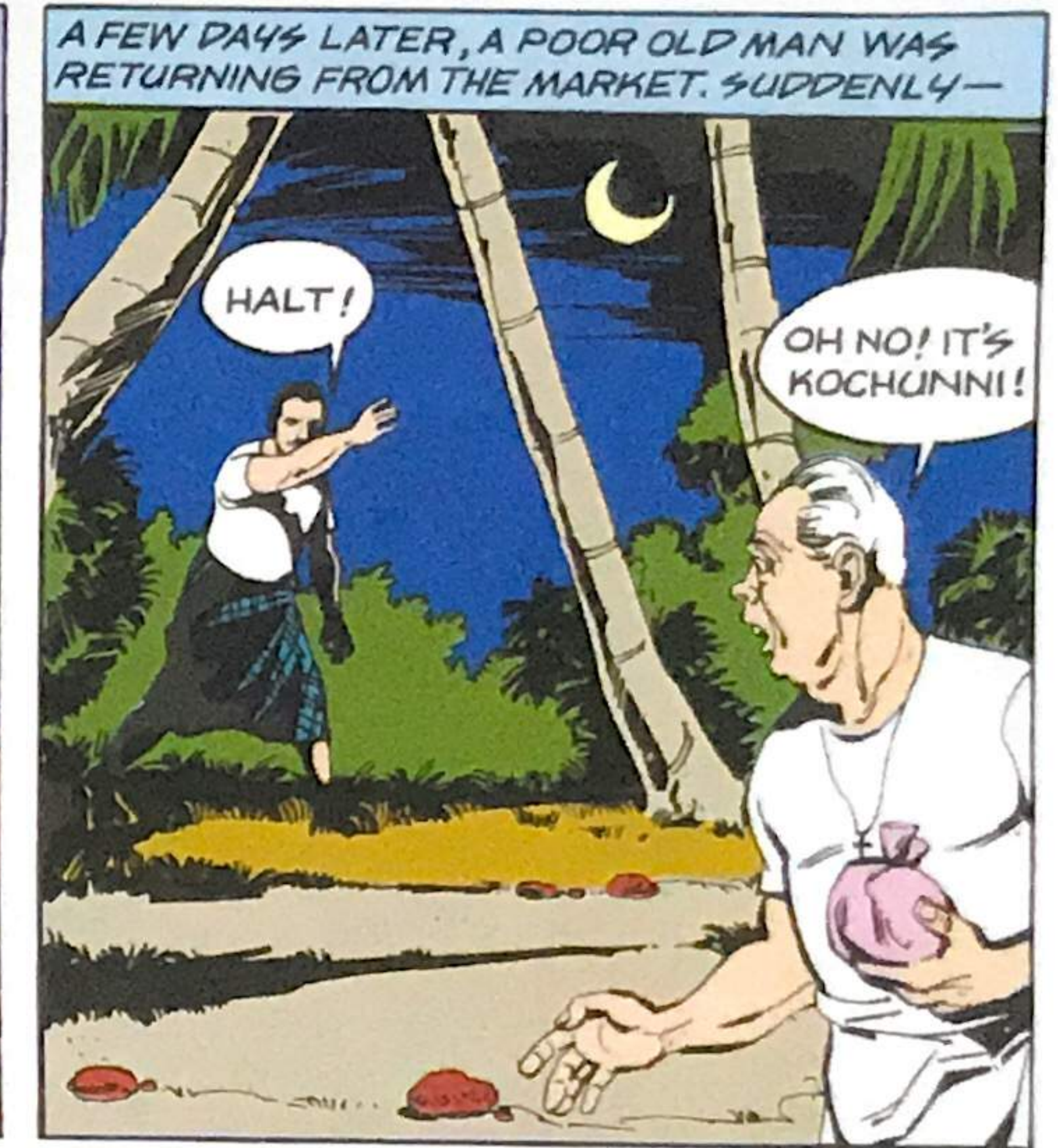




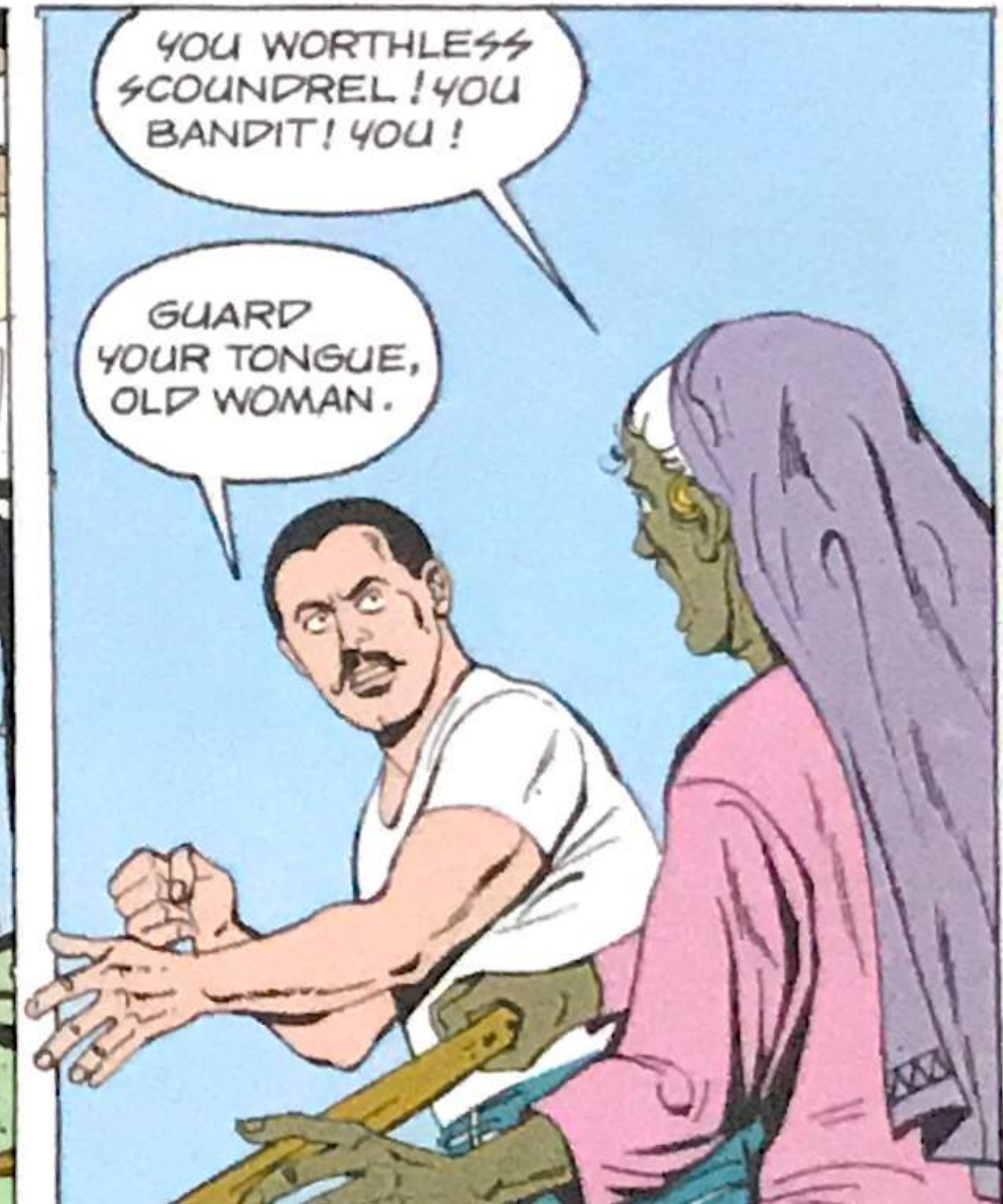
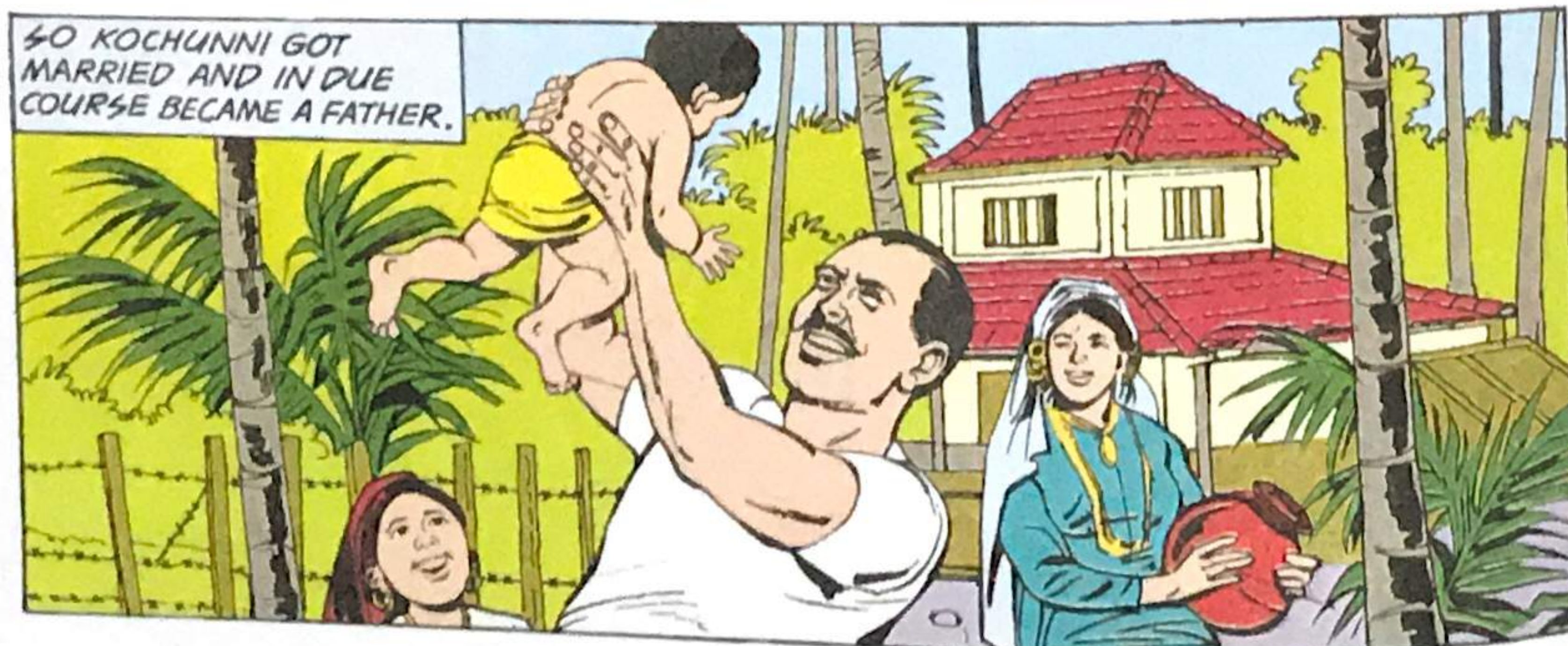
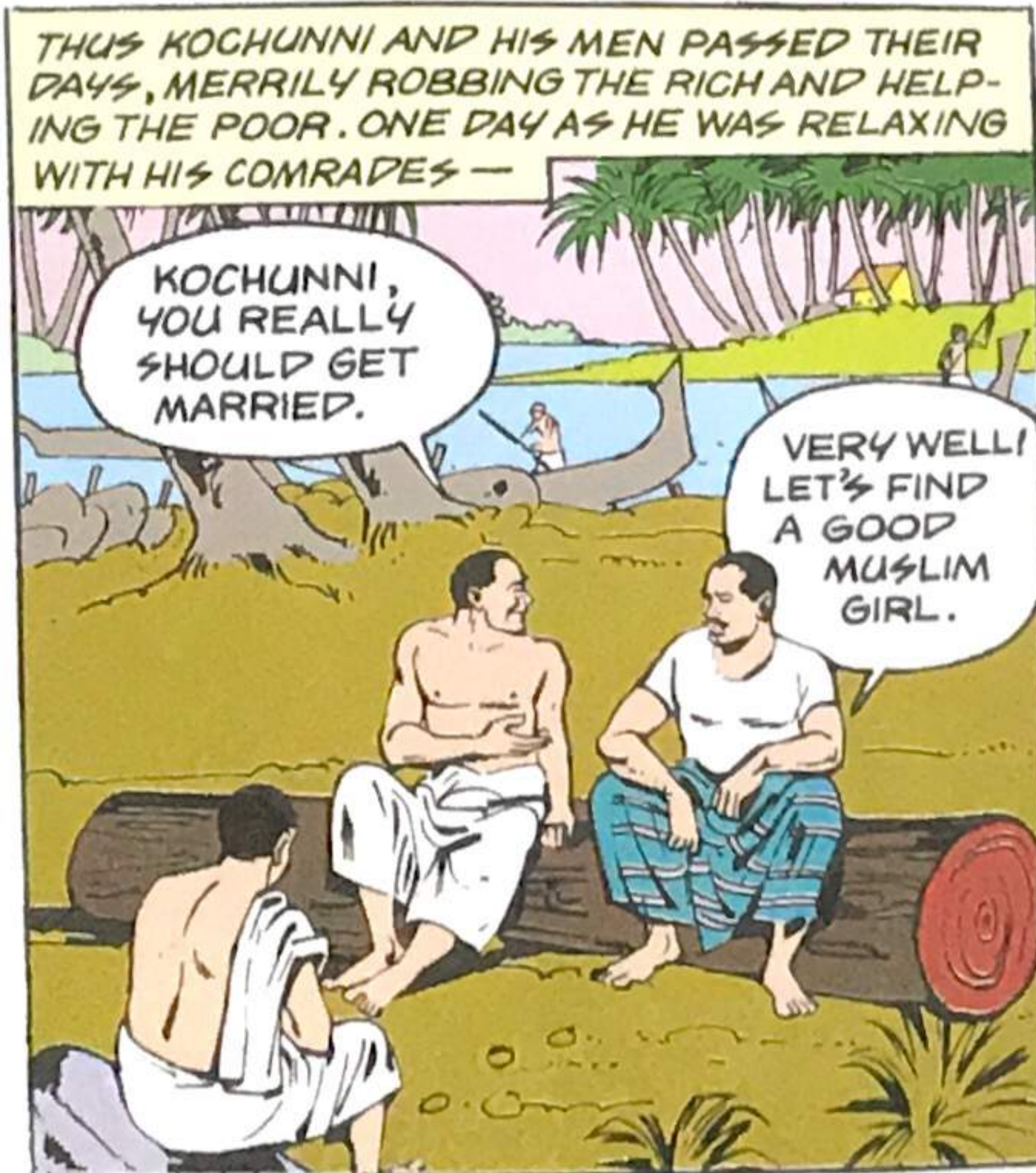
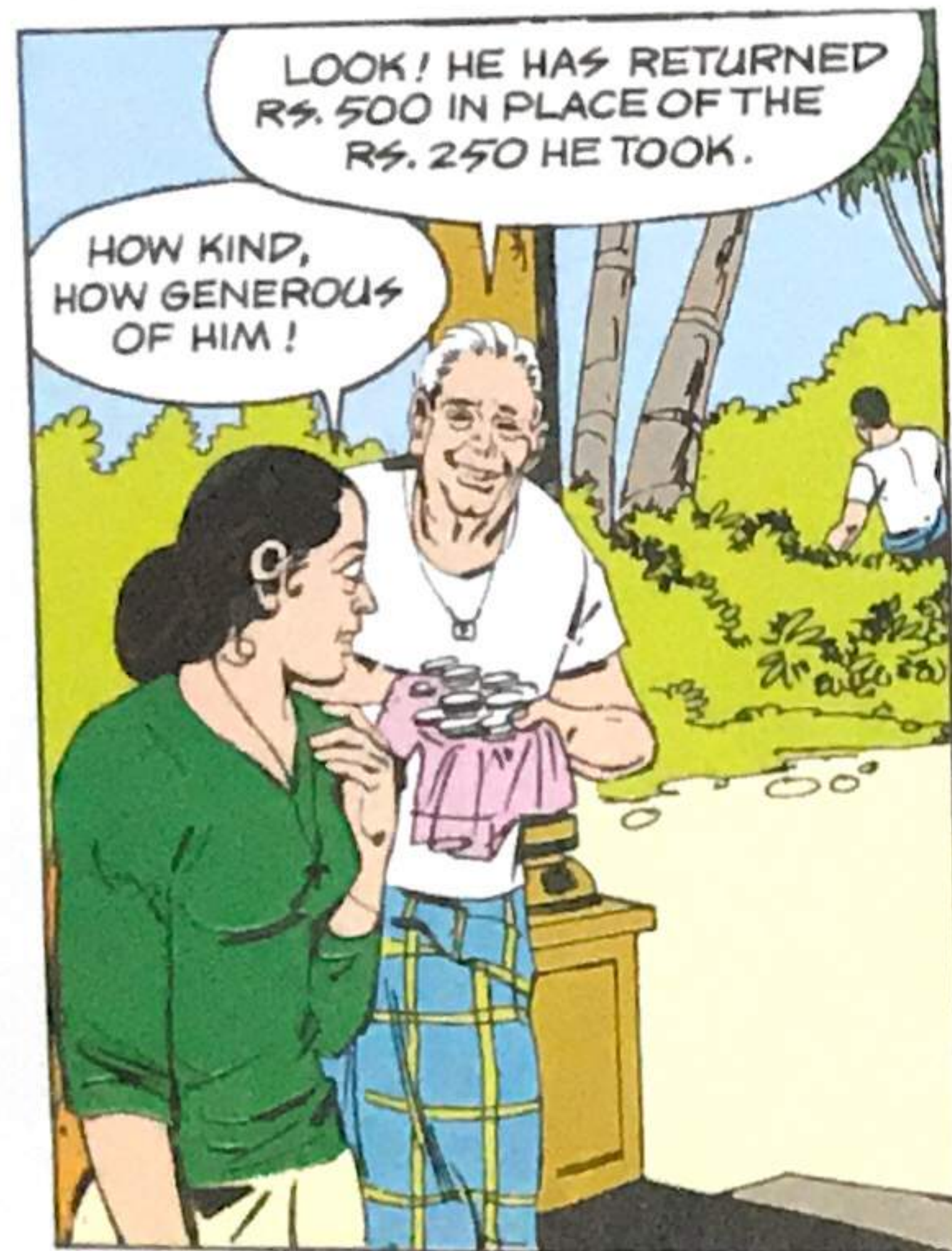
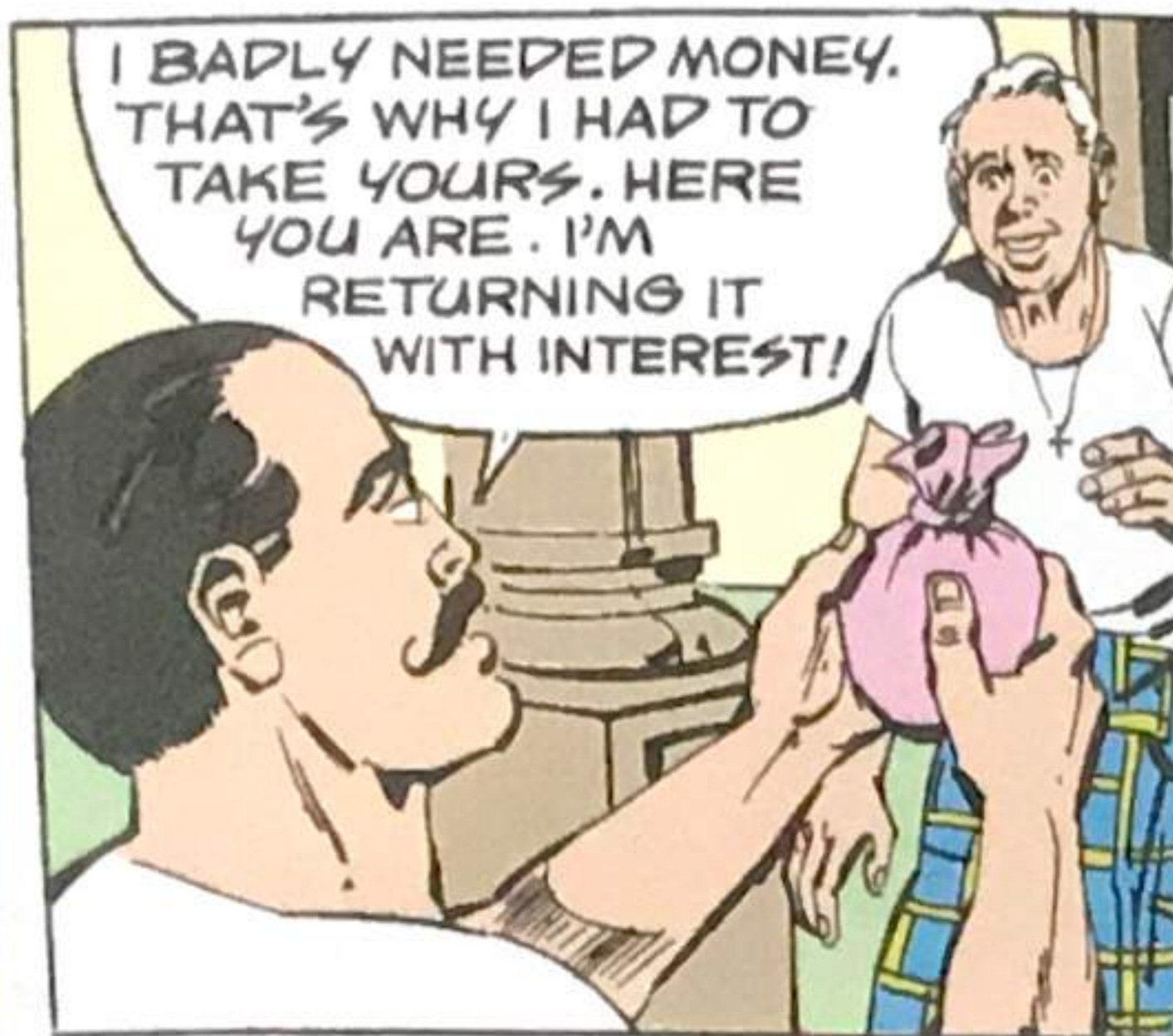




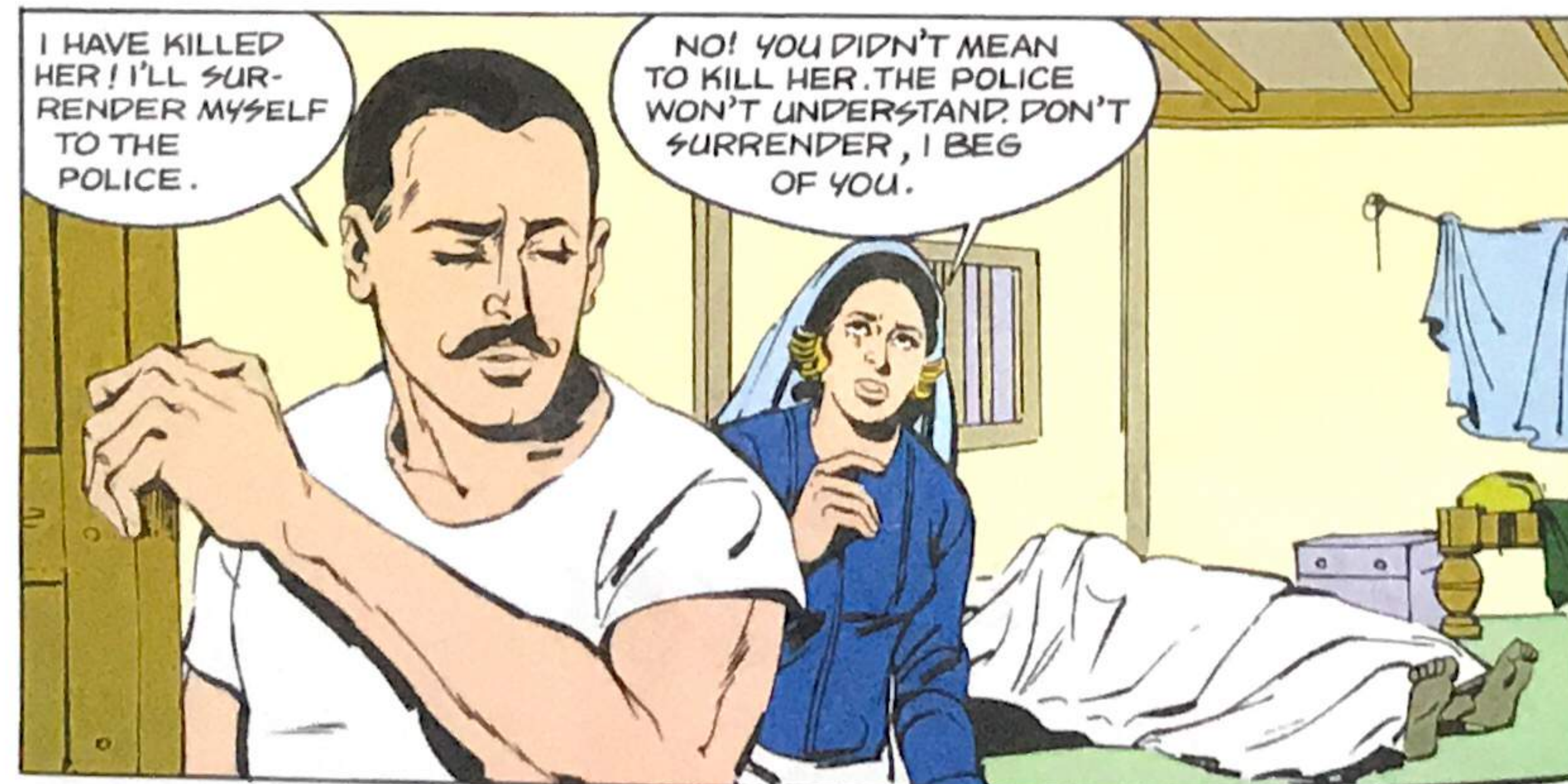
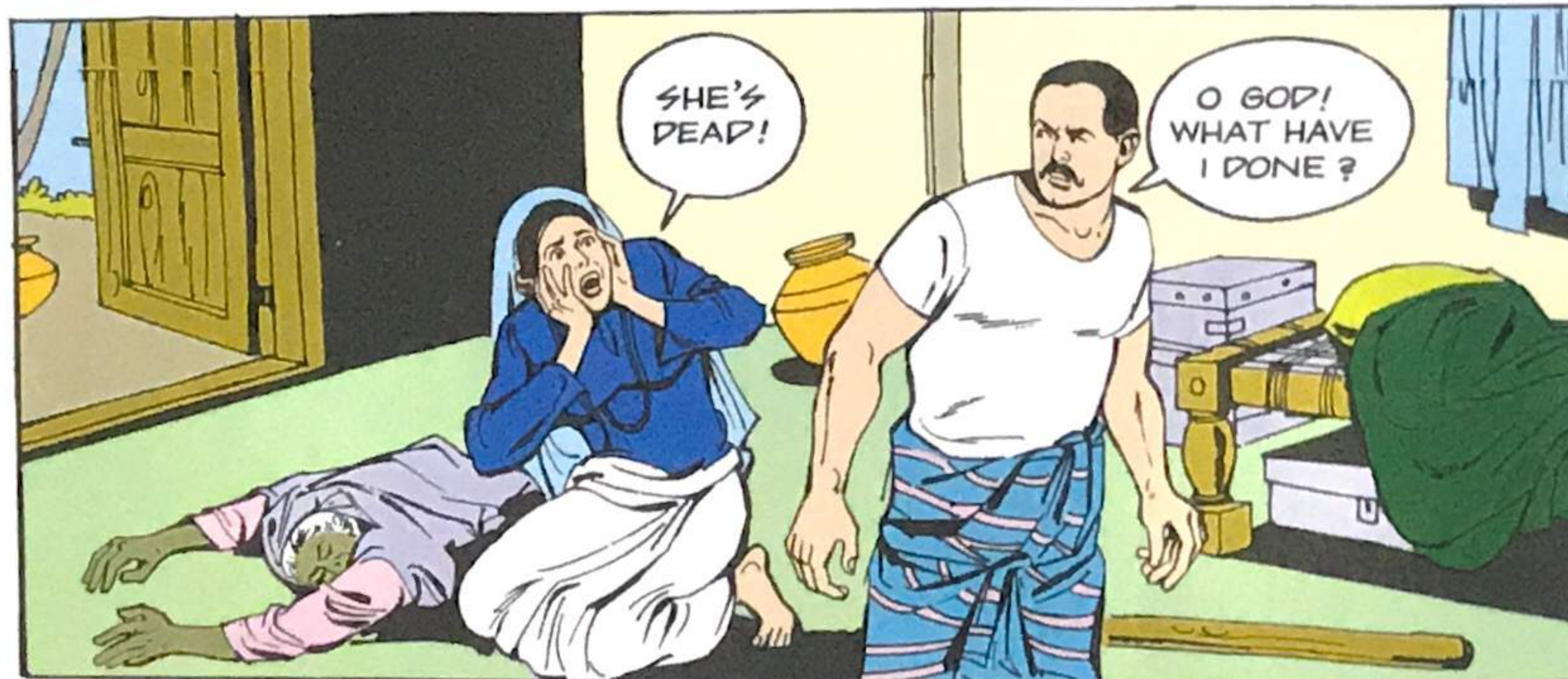
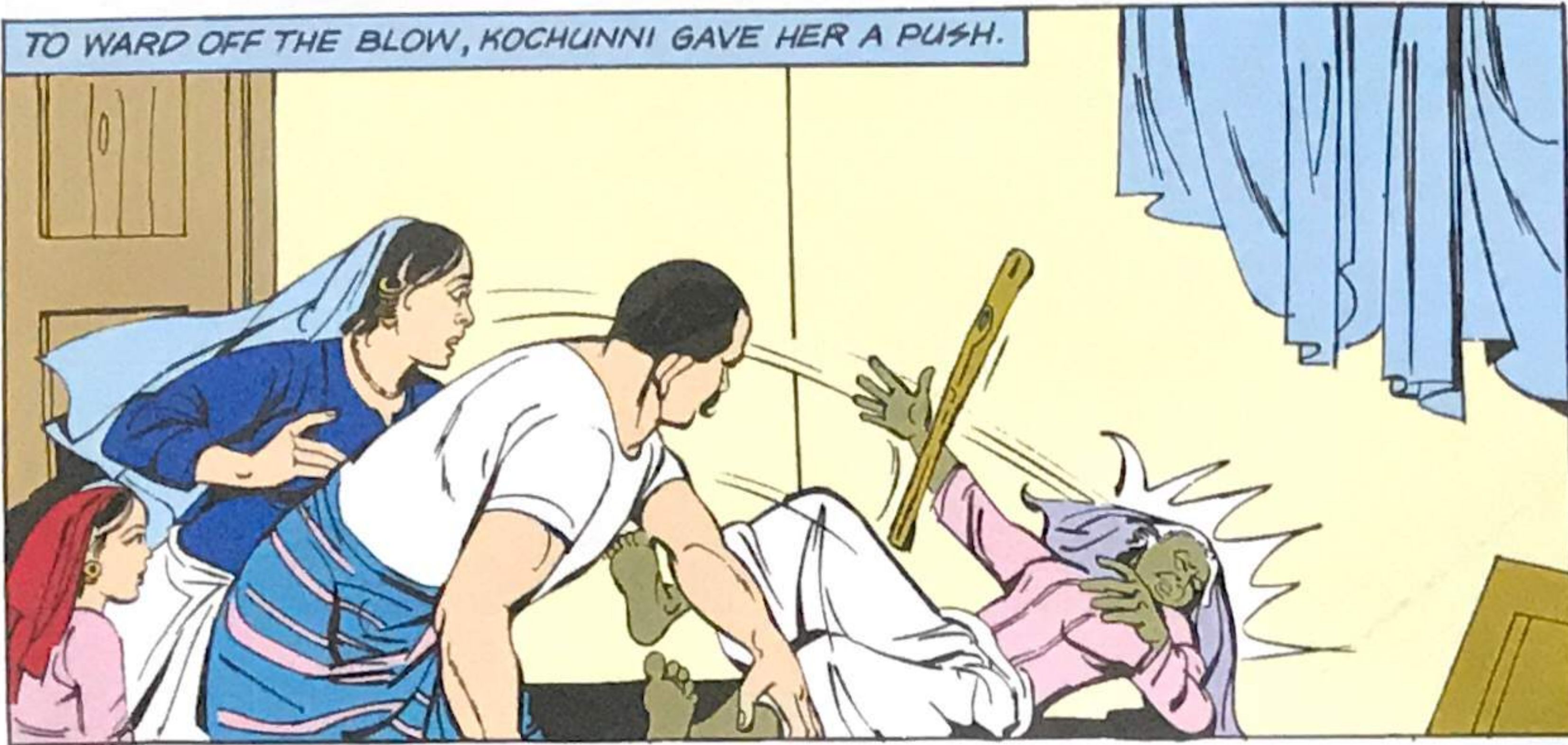
* FUNERAL RITES



* THE LARGE RUBY RING IS TREASURED BY THE PRIEST'S FAMILY TO THIS DAY



TO WARD OFF THE BLOW, KOCHUNNI GAVE HER A PUSH.

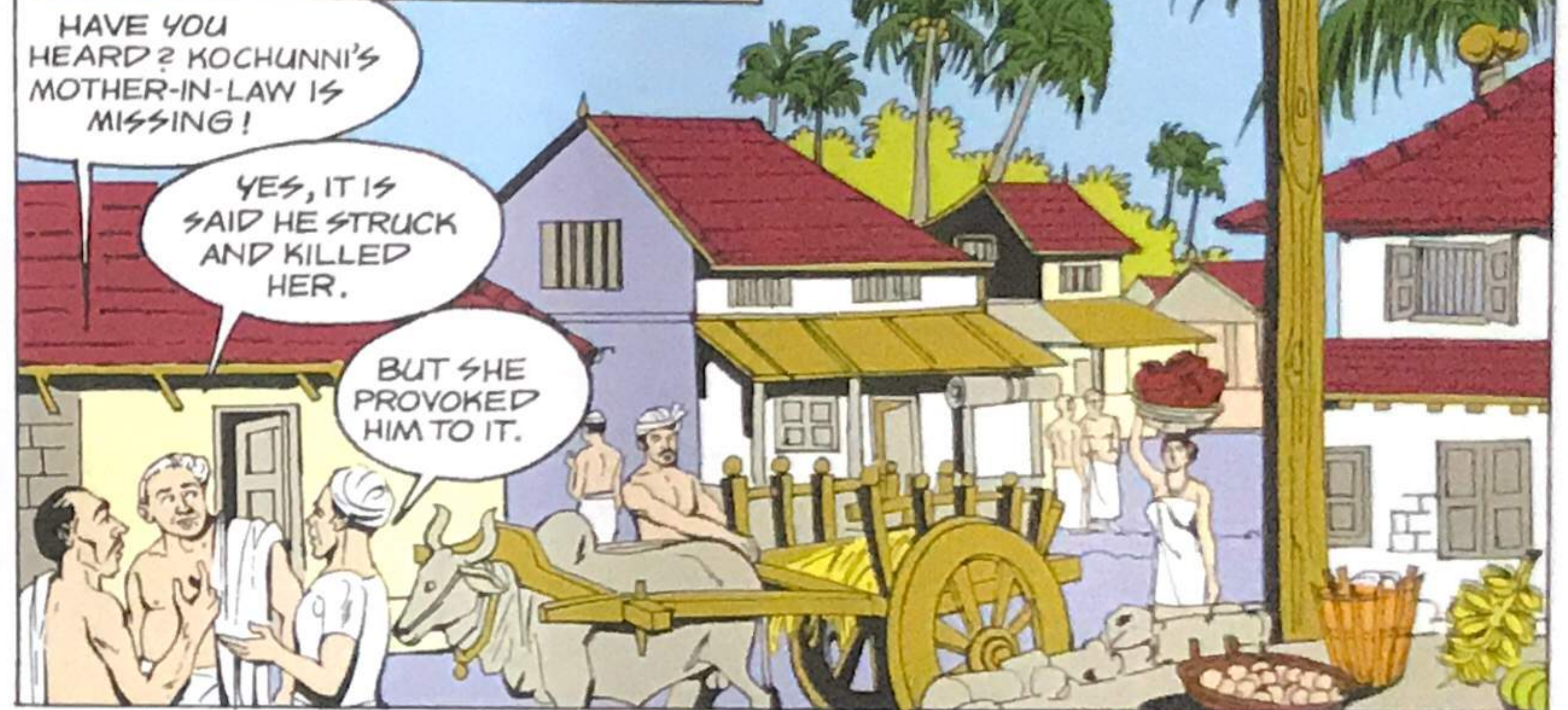


RUMOURS SOON SPREAD ABOUT THE MISSING MOTHER-IN-LAW AND KOCHUNNI'S HAND IN THE DRAMA.

HAVE YOU HEARD? KOCHUNNI'S MOTHER-IN-LAW IS MISSING!

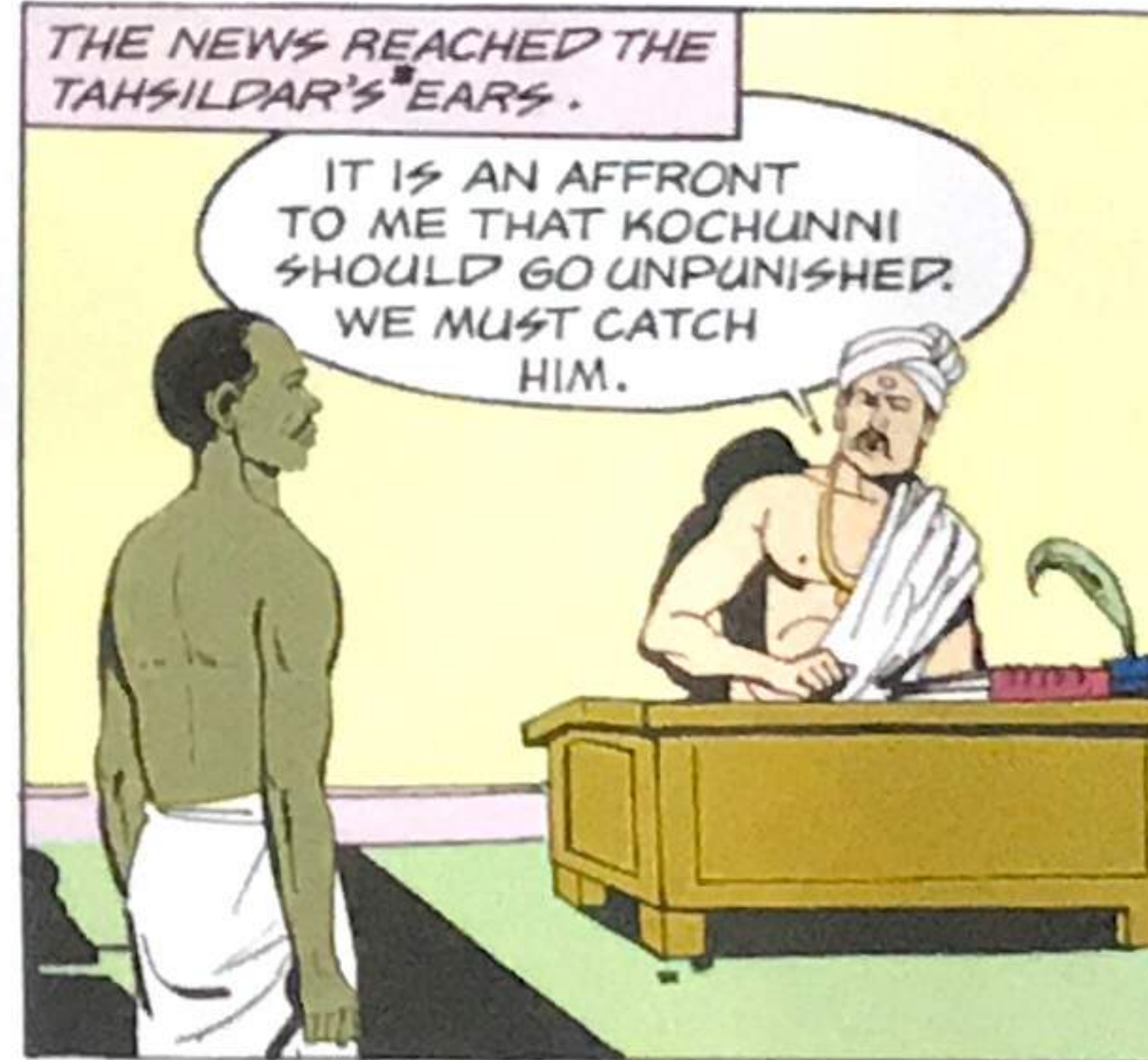
YES, IT IS SAID HE STRUCK AND KILLED HER.

BUT SHE PROVOKED HIM TO IT.



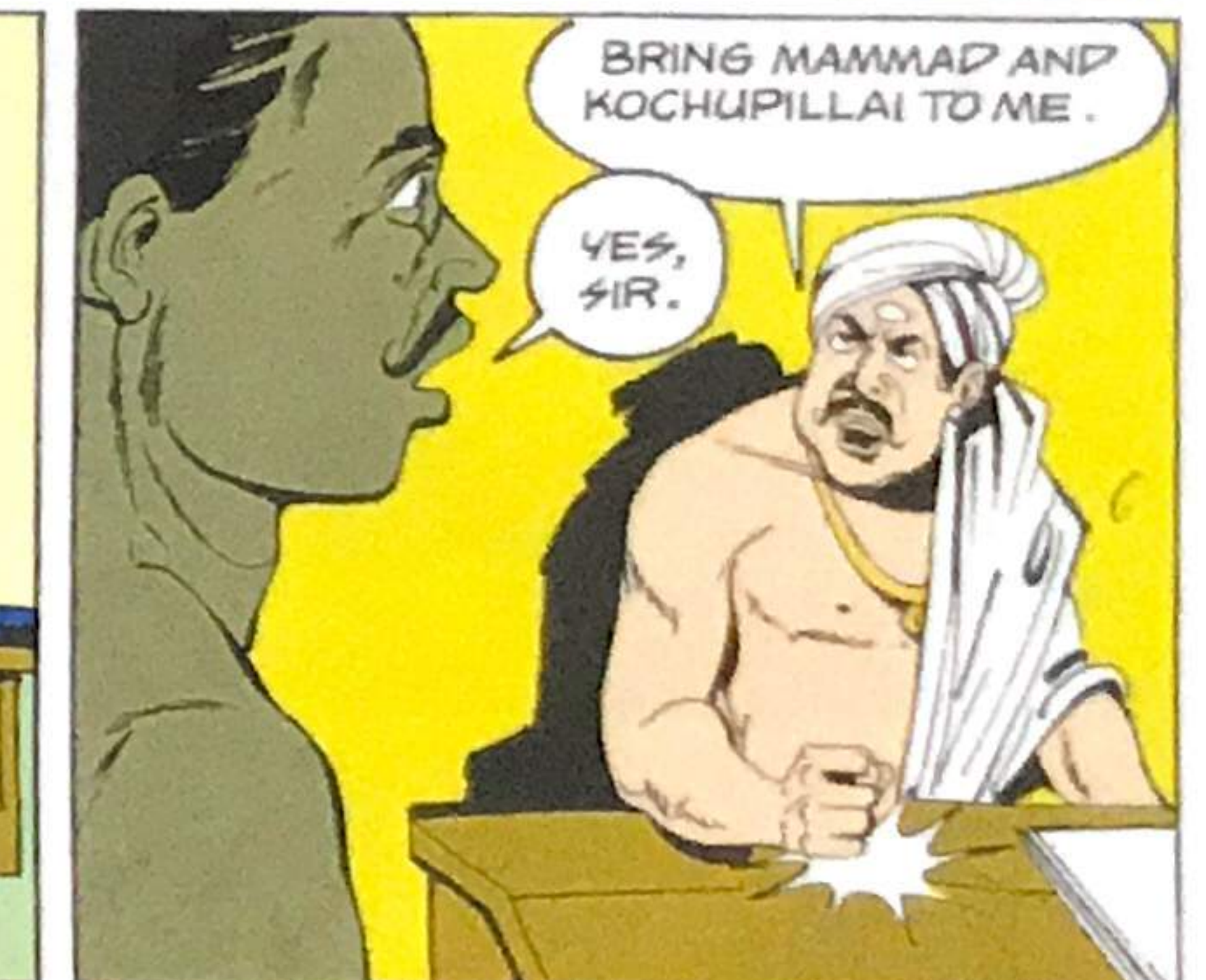
THE NEWS REACHED THE TAHSILDAR'S EARS.

IT IS AN AFFRONT TO ME THAT KOCHUNNI SHOULD GO UNPUNISHED. WE MUST CATCH HIM.



BRING MAMMAD AND KOCHUPILLAI TO ME.

YES, SIR.



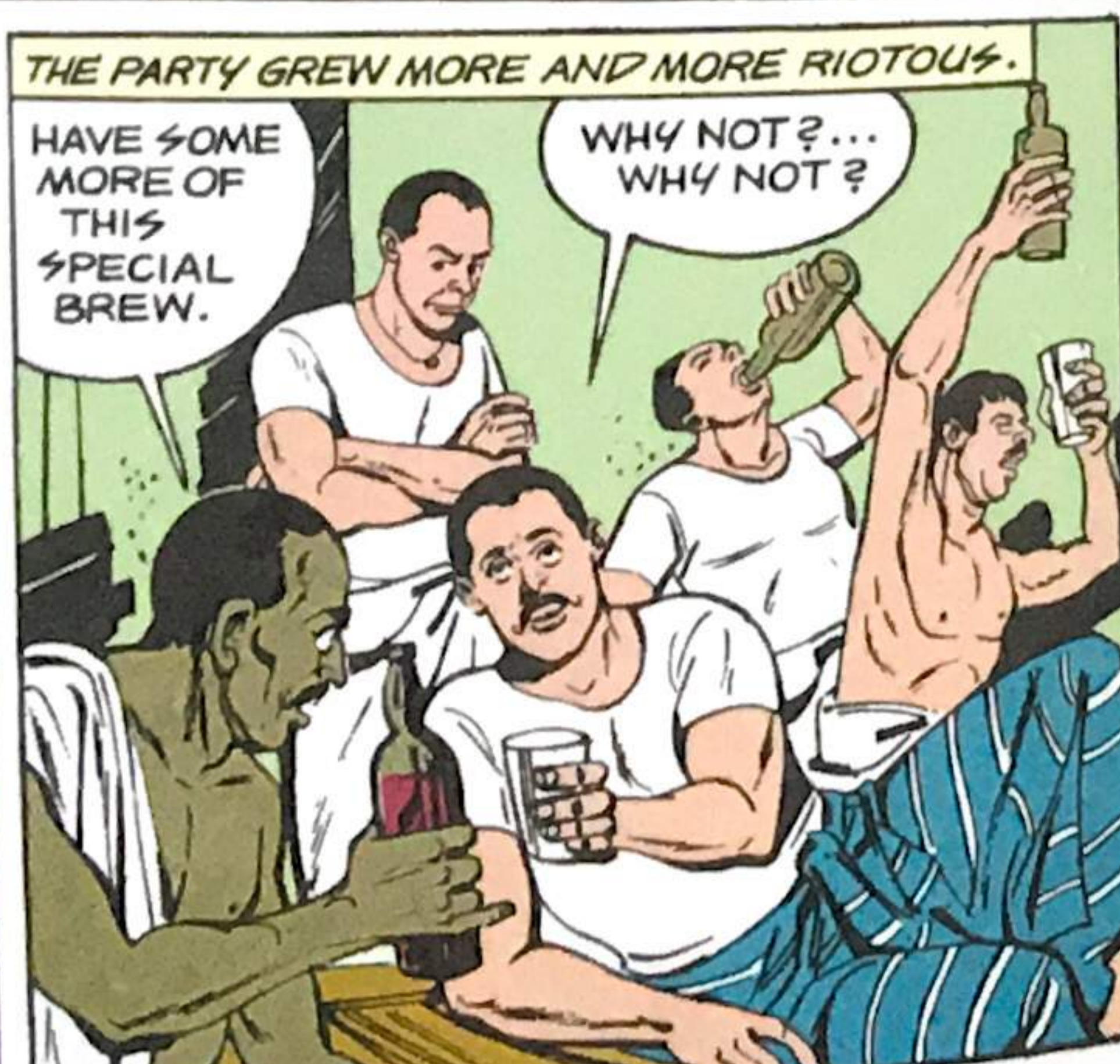
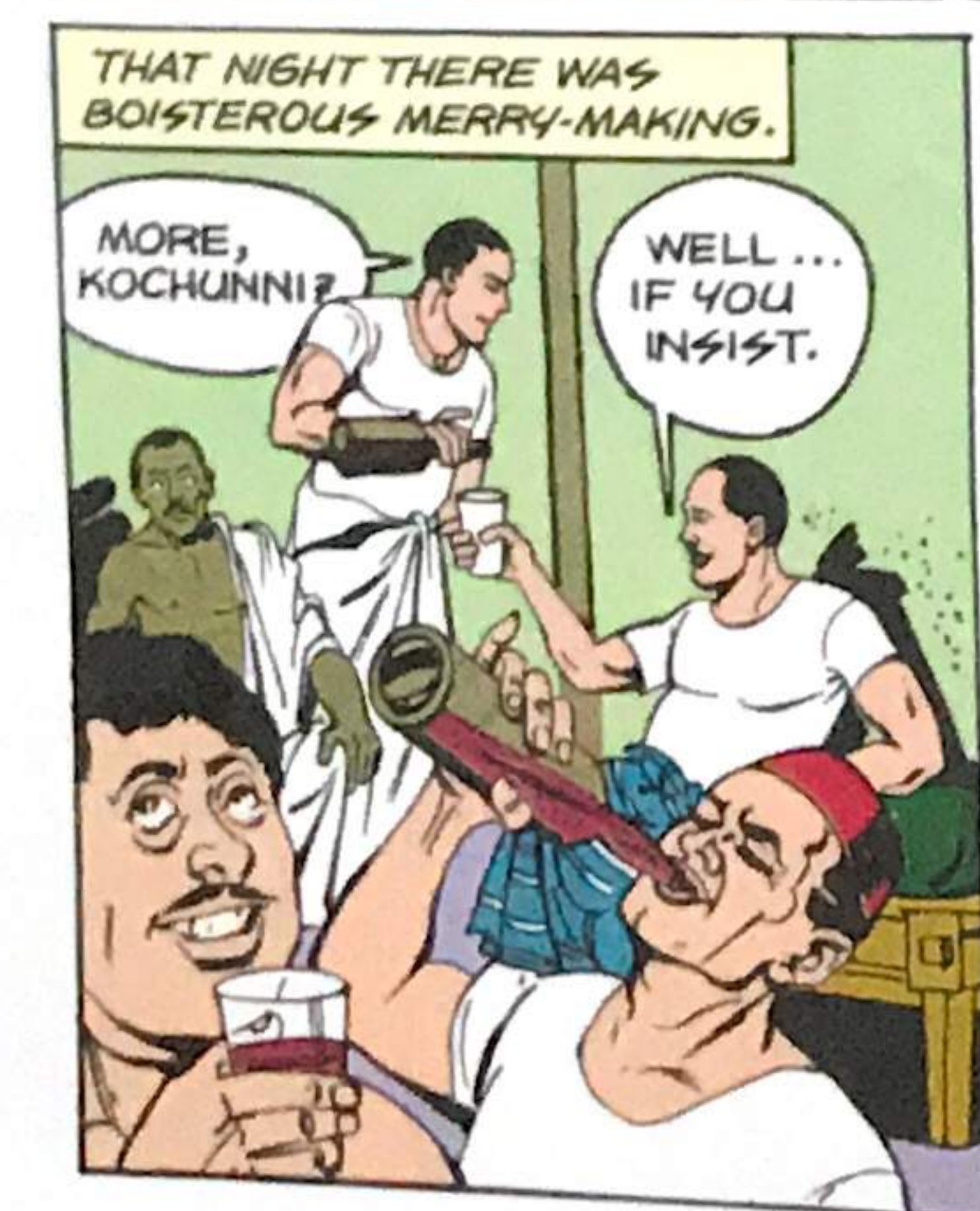
LISTEN. YOU MUST HELP ME CATCH THAT ROGUE - YOUR LEADER, KOCHUNNI.

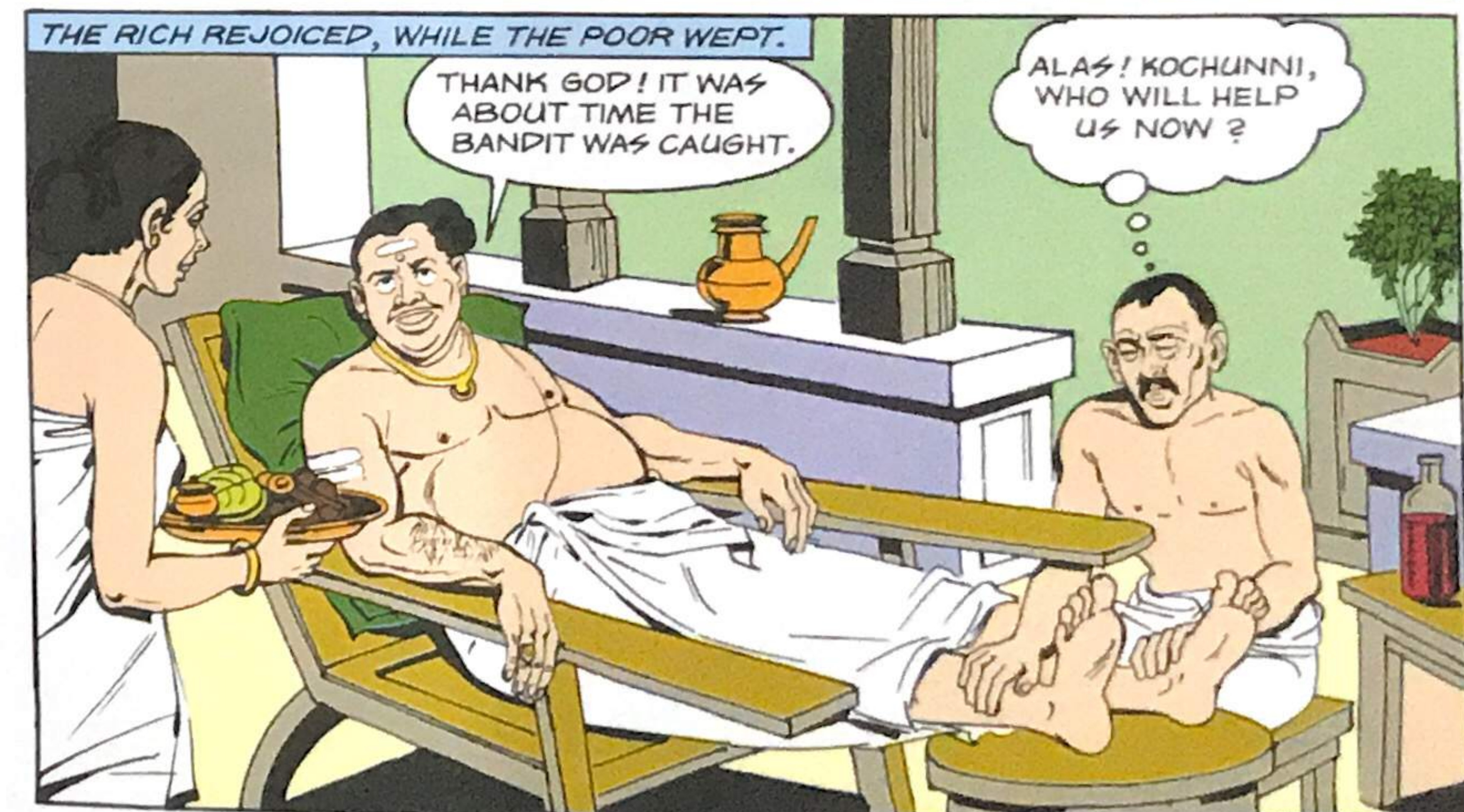
B-B-BUT...

WE DARE NOT! WE'RE AFRAID.



* VILLAGE REVENUE - COLLECTOR





KOCHUNNI WAS KEPT IN A SOLITARY CELL, UNDER A HEAVY GUARD.



ALAS! TOO LATE I REALISE THE TRUTH. JUSTICE IS ONE THING, LAW ANOTHER. MY AIMS WERE NOBLE AND JUST BUT LAW DOES NOT TAKE THESE THINGS INTO CONSIDERATION. MY METHODS WERE UNLAWFUL AND FOR THAT I PAY; FOR THAT I REPENT.



THREE MONTHS LATER, EVEN WHILE HIS TRIAL WAS GOING ON, KOCHUNNI DIED, AND HIS SPIRIT ROAMED FREE ONCE MORE. IT WAS ALMOST AS THOUGH HE HAD WILLED HIMSELF TO DIE. THE MEMORY OF THIS GALLANT OUTLAW LINGERS ON AMIDST THE GRACEFUL PALMS AND SPARKLING LAGOONS HE LOVED SO WELL.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY

Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu
Agastya
Andhaka
Aniruddha
Aruni And Uttanka
Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappa
Bahubali
Bhanumati
Bheema And Hanuman
Bheeshma
Chandrasekhar
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Harischandra
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Vritra
Jagannatha Of Puri
Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Karna
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False
Vaasudeva
Kubera
Kumbhakarna
Mahabharata
Mahiravana
Nachiketa
Nahusha
Nala Damayanti
Pareekshit
Parashurama
Prabhavati
Pradyumna
Pralad
Purushottam Dev And
Padmavati
Rama
Ravana Humbled
Saraswati
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